

were addressed to believers who were joined together in church fellowship, and the exhortations which they contain are adapted to such persons alone; neither can they be obeyed by carnal men, nor by any, except those, that are separated from the world, and united in the truth, as the members of one body. Keep this in view when you read those epistles: it will enable you to understand their meaning and application, and render them peculiarly profitable. Make it your care, therefore, to distinguish the flock of Christ from the world, resolutely cleave to his genuine disciples, in preference to the rest of mankind, delight in them as the excellent of the earth, love them fervently as your brethren and fellow members in him, walk stedfastly with them, in all his ordinances, diligently promote their edification, affectionately provoke them to love and to good works, comfort them under all their tribulations, cheerfully bear their burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Finally, if you do indeed consent to embrace the gospel, and follow Jesus, as your leader, let me persuade you to lay aside every incumbrance, and press forward toward perfection; that you may adorn the doctrine of Christ, and recommend it to others around you. Have compassion on thoughtless sinners that are in the broad way to destruction, hold forth the word of life to them, prudently excite them to make inquiry respecting it, patiently instruct those that are ignorant, and tenderly encourage them that halt between two opinions to walk in the narrow way of life.