

tianity and lasting friendship are the same,—love, trust, service, forgiveness, forbearance. Christianity recognizes our common origin and destiny ; it shows us that we all belong to the same union of those who are engaged in our Father's business ; its primary demand is love ; its work is to produce characters that are worthy of love and confidence. So, in every way, Christianity is conducive to good fellowship.

The spirit of fellowship so distinctive of Christianity may be illustrated by its practical effects. In every home, church, and nation, where Christianity is really alive, there is love, peace and justice ; while the domestic brawls, ecclesiastical splits, and world wars are caused by those whose Christianity has grown cold, who have become apostate, or who have never had the spirit of Christ at all. The beautiful picture of the Christian community at Pentecost, when all barriers of sex, race, and social condition were broken down, is at the same time a proof and a promise of what Christ can do to unite men together.

In the charming verses of our lesson, we have no cut and dried solution for all the knotty questions of class and caste, of wealth and need, of inequality and discord. What we have is an expression of the fine feeling that is absolutely necessary before we can effectively approach or deal with such social problems.

We have first the Philippians' treatment of Paul. They had sent him gifts of money on

more than one occasion, and although he had a naturally proud and independent spirit, they sent it in such a way that he accepted it, although that was contrary to his custom. They knew he was in need, and such was their attitude of intimate sympathy, that they were able to give to him, without any semblance of charity, and without wounding his delicate spirit. The world gives great sums in charity, but there is that proverbial coldness about it, which crushes the heart of those it is meant to save. The great needs of the world will never be met by fortuitous charity, but, if those who have, would provide for those who have not, in the spirit that the Philippians gave to Paul, it would put a heart into our relief work that would bless him that gives, and him that takes.

But what would go further to solve our social grievances than the spirit of the Philippians would be the spirit of Paul, who had learned the secret of contentment. Sometimes the church is accused of prolonging the injustices of life by preaching contentment to the wronged, when, we are told, we should preach that they should stand up for their rights. It is quite true that we should not rest content with conditions until they are as they ought to be. To the rich and well-to-do must be preached Paul's spirit of finding contentment in doing good, rather than in riches, and trusting in God's providence, rather than in financial insurance. The poor, in their efforts to set the world right, should beware lest they themselves show the same greed for wealth which they condemn in others.

### FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY of the PATHFINDER.

A very direct connection may be traced between our lesson a week ago and the one to-day. We noticed that the observance of the Lord's Supper is a reminder to us of our common brotherhood with all believers in Christ. Our lesson to-day suggests to us something of how that common brotherhood may find expression. Point out to the class that psychologists tell us that we injure ourselves when we neglect to give real expression to good and uplifting emotions, and that there is an ever-present danger lest our sense of

Christian brotherhood should evaporate in mere feeling. Now discuss :

1. *The bond of sympathy*, vs. 10-14. Suggest to the class that Paul's letter might easily have closed with the benediction of v. 9. But he has left his acknowledgment of the gifts that had been sent him until the last. Who had brought him these gifts ? See v. 18. Did Paul regard these gifts from his friends at Philippi as absolutely necessary to his comfort ? What great lesson of contentment had Paul learned ? Show the value of such a