

There is no need, that is to say, even were it lawful, to minimize the real differences that exist between us, but there is urgent need of defining, clearly, what those differences are, and not to be kept apart, unnecessarily and even fatally, by misunderstandings and mere ambiguities, in the presence of a united, organized, and aggressive enemy, eager to take advantage of our disunion, and to exaggerate it, in order to weaken the forces of Christianity.

But, even if possible, is such an alliance, between the True Church and "heretics", a lawful one? Once more, I desire to profess, in all sincerity, my entire and unreserved submission, on this as on all other matters, to the divine authority of the Church. But, apart from those Scriptural foreshadowings, to which I must again allude; apart from the fact that the present sharp distinction between Christ's Kingdom and Satan's, is, except for the times of persecution, literally without parallel in the history of Christendom, there is the vital fact that the struggle is not merely between the Church and the forces of evil, but between those forces and all that can, in any real sense, be called Christianity. In proportion, therefore, as Protestants and Catholics can agree to unite on the basis of a common love and devotion to the Divine, Incarnate Son of God, in so far will each gain strength from the alliance. If it is not to the interest of the various denominations of Protestants to see the greatest body of professing Christians, the Catholic Church, oppressed or overcome—if that were possible—by socialism, it is equally true that the Church, humanly speaking, would lose, incalculably, by the victory of socialism over Protestantism as a Christian religion. In a word, Christianity, whether Catholic or Protestant, has everything to gain by unity in, and for Christ, and everything to lose by division. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church, even as her Lord promised her; yet there is no reason why she should not accept the help of those who, in the primary essence of all true Christianity, are at one with her. That such an