

The first of the series is "with all lowliness," the very reverse of pride. It is plainly implied when lowliness is inculcated, as essential to unity, that pride leads to disunion. Not only is it taught in the Bible, but any one who has lived any length of time in the world, will see that pride more than any thing else leads to contention and strife. In the church of Christ—it is a principal source of contention, strife, hatred, and disunion. It has often torn congregations to pieces—and alienated those, who should have been united in the bond of perfection. In the world, pride produces daily strife, hatred, and division; leads to national wars—and pours out human blood like water. It has placed the Man of Sin on his throne;—led him to lord it over the Christian church, and to assume a superiority over kings;—and even to take the titles and honours of Deity.

How different is all this from that lowliness which is essential to unity! The Saviour gave a most striking example of humility when he left the throne of his glory, and took our place on Calvary. He set a child in the midst of his disciples, and said, Except ye be converted, and become as little children—ye shall not enter the kingdom of God." He taught that whosoever would be chief among his followers, must be servant of all. Paul, in treating of the same subject, exhorts his brethren to esteem others better than themselves. It is easy to see that such a spirit and such conduct would go far to produce a unity of spirit among Christians.

The next characteristic inculcated by the apostle as necessary to union, is meekness. This involves great command of our temper, so as not to be easily provoked or irritated. Causes of provocation will arise. We are so constituted that it seems impossible under present circumstances, that it can be altogether avoided. It is no less evident that offence is often taken where none is intended. In all such cases, the prescription of the apostle,—meek-