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**What Connexion has the Church with the World?**

(Continued from page 217.)

*There is no affinity of the spirit and character of the kingdoms of the World to the spirit and character of the Church of Christ.* The kingdoms of the world are just the world itself, as distinguished from the Church of Christ. They are, naturally, the seed of the serpent; and the spirit that ruleth in them, is the spirit that ruleth in the children of disobedience. This spirit is the enemy of God and of the followers of Christ—the tempter of men to fulfil the desires of the flesh and of the mind—the exciter of strife and contention among men, and the prime agent in raising and carrying on the bloody wars which take place in the world. As it ruleth in the kingdoms of the world separately, it is selfish—loves only itself, and is exclusively taken up with the service of itself:—it is also envious, and cannot bear to see other kingdoms enjoying greater prosperity,—deceitful, and acts upon the principle that *the end sanctifies the means,—tyrannical*, and enslaves and oppresses all who are under its sway. Every kingdom of the world has some distinguishing characteristic. Some nations are renowned for their martial achievements, and some for their commercial enterprise; some are famous for the cultivation of the fine arts, and some are ambitious to be thought learned and refined; some are distinguished for practical infidelity, and some for contemptible superstition; but not one is characterized by disinterested benevolence and loving its neighbor as itself: each seeks its own aggrandizement, irrespective altogether of the good of others; and each of them, in relation to God, lieth in wickedness.

The Church of Christ is actuated by a very different spirit and possesses a very different character. The spirit that dwells and rules in her, is the spirit of Christ and of God,—the spirit of wisdom and of all grace and holiness; and in whomsoever this spirit rules, the natural spirit of disobedience is daily mortified. This spirit is decidedly opposed to the world as the enemy of God and his people, and also to selfishness and every vile affection. It is the spirit of love to God and man,—the spirit of humility, and entertains no envious grudge at the prosperity of others,—the spirit of peace and liberty, and constrains all whom it actuates to “follow peace with all men,” and to evince their freedom by running the way of God’s