

unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."—2 Cor. vi. 14–18. Nothing can be more explicit than this, and the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, reiterates in a thousand forms the same instructions. The children of God are not to mix up and mingle with the world, and never is more carefulness and self-denial called for than when the world has assumed the name of Christian.

#### IDENTIFYING MYSELF WITH BRETHREN.

It is but justice to all who may be interested in the question, to state that my doctrinal sentiments on all the essential points of the Baptist Articles, are just what they have been for years. The centre of attraction, the centre of "gathering" with "Brethren" is the Lord Jesus Christ, and not any particular doctrine or ordinance. If a person believes in His divinity, in His atonement, His vicarious sacrifice, with the other evangelical doctrines involved in these, such as the Trinity, the presence and operation of the Holy Ghost, Regeneration, &c., &c., even though he may not see eye to eye with every one of the Assembly, on such subjects as baptism, ordination, predestination, &c., he would be welcomed to a place among us, if we have confidence in his piety. So far as my doctrinal sentiments were concerned, the very fact that I held to the Baptist creed was sufficient to ensure me a welcome among them. No essential change was required. It was the *lax morality* generally prevalent in the denomination, and especially in the church to which I belonged, as in all the other denominations, (for I grieve to say I cannot single out one, would that I could, as worse than others, and certainly I never intended to intimate that I thought Baptists were the worst)—that drove me from them. I have grieved and mourned over the worldliness and wickedness of the Baptist denomination for nearly ten years, and long labored and hoped that there might be a Reformation. But I was compelled at length to abandon all hope of reform. Things were manifestly growing worse and worse; and so, sorrowfully, and with anguish of spirit and many tears, I left, in the only way their principles admit of. Absurd and unscriptural as it may be, it is not the custom of Baptists honorably to *dismiss* a member, however pious he or she may be, unless the individual intends to unite with some other church "of the same faith and order;" they *excommunicate* those who join any other Body. I continued my con-