

washed in the sight of God if we go on doing selfish things and manifesting a grasping, unscrupulous spirit in our relations with one another." A prevailing false notion we must rid ourselves of in meeting the social crisis of to-day is that sin against God is something different from sin against man. If the church is to succeed in the present crisis, she must cease worrying over wrong in the abstract and correct wrong in the concrete, cease fighting a mythical devil and deal with real devils near at hand, cease fighting and combating sin in general and organize to combat particular sins.

There is a widespread suspicion daily deepening into an impatient conviction that our society needs to have its whole conception of the meaning and purpose of life revolutionized. The great trouble with our social order is that our ruling ideas are wrong ideas. We have been trying to build up a civilization on individualism. Self-interest has been recognized as the regulative principle of our social organism. Our laws, our civil and industrial institutions are based on this idea. Our political economy and our practical philosophy have been based on the idea that all rules of conduct must be adjusted to self-love as the supreme motive of life. Of course, in the family, and to some small extent in the church, and to a still smaller extent in philanthropies, we recognize the rule of altruistic interests. But in all the absorbing affairs of life—in industry, in commerce, in politics—we have insisted on enthroning the principle of self-interest. It is this that has brought on our social crisis. Our fundamental trouble to-day is that we have been trying to build our society on a selfish foundation. Where every vestige of political privilege ought to be swept away, where social conditions ought to express equity and righteousness, we still have inequalities and injustices of the most glaring sort. We are developing tribes of plunderers whose aim is to have the whole country at their mercy. We have an increasing, debilitating luxury that would outdo the Romans in the time of their decadence. We have more misery and poverty than we are aware of. And we have deadly class hatreds steadily deepening and con-