

must flow from the very tenderness of affection? Do you delight in the language of grateful thanksgiving, and love to pour out the full feelings of a thankful heart? In solitude, is your meditation on Him and His loving kindness? Is that blessed volume, which tells of all that He has done, all that He will do for you, a loved and familiar study? Is love to Him the principle which regulates your life—the source from which your actions flow? Do you perform what He has commanded, and avoid what He has forbidden, for this sole reason—that you may endeavour to please him?—“Whoso keepeth His word, in him, verily, is the love of God perfected.” Yes, my brethren, a life of obedience to the Divine precepts, is the only unequivocal evidence, the only infallible test of real love to God.

But the two Commandments in our text are so united, that obedience to one cannot exist without obedience to the other: “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God, love his brother also.”

The practice of the primitive Church, my brethren, was a living commentary on the precept of their Divine Master, “A new Commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.” The principle was so forcibly illustrated in the lives of the first followers of Christ, that even the Heathens were constrained to exclaim, “See how those Christians love one another.” Need I refer to the page of history, which records the impression, which their conduct produced on wondering observers? “Their teachers,” says one writer, “have