

sanity, and undertoo¹. to lay hands on Him as one who must be put in close confinement; and so a man's foes, in this respect, are ever first those of his own house. And a.l along his Christian life the true follower of Christ awakens first the fears then the opposition of friends—is often misunderstood by his best friends. But the bitterest part of this trial is, that frequently he is misunderstood by his fellow-followers of Christ.

It does not follow that because one has really been adopted into the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ that he has become acquainted with all the mind of God. Nor does it follow that such an one always adopts the right course to learn the will of God. Christians are often a long time in being saved from the sin of leaning to their own understandings in place of trusting in the Lord with all the heart, hence mistakes in judging one another's conduct is of frequent occurrence. It commenced very early in the history of the Christian Church, as witness the contention which parted Paul and Barnabas.

Scripture has given a very simple method by which there need be no misunderstandings between Spirit-led followers of Christ. There may always be unity in the Spirit, but when this process of unification is not adopted by all, those led by the Spirit must necessarily be misunderstood by those who are not. He then, who would walk with God and accept the Comforter Divine as an indwelling guest and counsellor, must expect ever and anon to endure this test of being misunderstood by his best friends, and even at times by some had in reputation for saintliness in the Church; and no one can be really established in a full-orbed Christian experience who is not prepared to endure such tests from time to time.

EXPOSITION.

1 Cor. iv. 3.—“Yea, I judge not mine own self.”

Does that mean that the apostle had, as a rule, ceased having a positive opinion concerning the rightness or wrongness of his actions, or that he could no longer sit in judgment on them as to their expediency or improveableness? We think not; but that concerning some acts of his life, whether understood or not by himself, he had the judgment of the Lord that they were right, and with that he was