

away by every wind of doctrine? If it be the will of the great Teacher that his words which are life be studied, in order that they may be understood and obeyed, does not a failure to comply in this respect show disregard to, and utter contempt of his authority as manifestly as would a misdemeanor of a more notorious character.

Again prayer is very frequently enjoined in the word of God and certainly is the Christians sweetest privilege. We are brought by it into the immediate contemplation of God's character as a pure and holy being. The image of Christ is by frequent communings with Him left finally imprinted upon the soul. That was a good idea of some old divine "Prayer will make a man leave off sinning, or sinning will make him leave off praying." The apostle says "But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." If prayer is in reality indispensable to holiness of heart and life, ought not every christian church, the light that God himself has set up, to scatter the surrounding darkness to exhibit that truth by refusing fellowship to those who constantly neglect such important duty?

Among the numerous difficulties which present themselves, it may be said that it is very difficult for a Church to know when there is culpable neglect in this respect. We believe however if a man *really prays* it will be known, the fact will come out, in some way. "Pray to thy Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

To say nothing however of secret prayer there is a clause in our Covenant which either has a meaning or it ought not to be kept there. It is this "Promising by Divine help to walk in our houses as becomes those professing Godliness and to maintain the worship of God in our families." The covenant is frequently read in our meetings for conference, and its sentiments endorsed usually by the members rising to their feet.