

Church in the world, adapting itself to all diversities of nations and conditions of society, and by the renewing power and gifts of the Holy Spirit has, as in ancient days, converted the idolater of every type, and reformed the vicious of every degree, and raised up multitudes who, as living epistles of piety, virtue and benevolence, are read and known of all men.

3. The conclusions of the lengthened deliberations of the recent General Conference are embodied in a Book of Doctrines and Discipline which should, next to the Bible and our Hymn Book, be in every Methodist family, and in which you will find the great principles and rules of government and practice received from our forefathers, specially adapted to the circumstances and wants of our country, and the Circuit and Missionary operations of our Church.

4. One leading object of these carefully matured disciplinary arrangements is to give the unity and strength of our whole Church to the work of its every department—that the Missionary, the Sabbath School, the Educational, and various other works of the Church should emanate from a common authority, should have the stamp of a common character, should be bound together by a common interest, should be animated by one spirit; while there should be ample local discretion in the application of common principles, and in advancing the divine purposes of our common brotherhood—the spread of Scriptural truth and holiness among men.

5. The practical working of this simple, but great machinery, which God has placed in our hands, rests chiefly with the Six Annual Conferences, and the Ministers and congregations under their charge. The effectiveness of any system depends more upon the manner in which it is administered and worked out, than upon even the excellence of the principles and regulations which it embodies. The beauty of the wonderfully and fearfully made human body is but a lifeless spectacle on which to gaze without the life and spirit and wisdom, and goodness which animate its faculties, and prompt and invigorate its activities. The might of the best ecclesiastical machinery lies not in the wisdom and completeness of its construction, but in the spirit and power of the living God sanctifying, teaching and empowering its every agent, and directing its every movement.

6. Under such conditions and circumstances, and with such responsibilities and divinely provided resources, what is the duty of every Minister, and of every member of the Church, but that each Minister should remember his divine vocation, and his personal ordination vows; that the divine call is as fresh and authoritative every day of life, until its last setting sun, as it was when it first uttered the response "Lord, here am I, send me;" and that the personal vow is binding at all times and in all circumstances, "in season and out of season," until the master