

repentance, and on no account should the matter be made known to others until the first steps laid down for such a case have been fully tried, and found ineffectual. Then, and not till then, should an offence be mentioned to a third person; and in doing so we must take heed lest we be prompted to allay the agitation of our wounded feelings, by stabbing the reputation of our offending brother. Nothing like retaliation or revenge should, for a moment, be cherished; on the contrary, we should have before our minds constantly the spiritual welfare of our brother.

Brethren, follow this, and we are persuaded that one of the most fruitful causes of the troubles of Zion will be removed.

3. *It would tend much to the peace of Zion if proper regard were paid to the important relation existing between ministers and churches.*—Strife and discord from this source soon displayed themselves, as we find was the case at Corinth. "For it hath been declared unto me" says the Apostle, "that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ." Ministers have sometimes been idolized by Churches, and sometimes shamefully treated; and much strife and discord have convulsed the Church on their account.

4. Farther to attain and secure the peace of Zion it is necessary that *correct views of divine truth be clearly exhibited, cordially embraced, and faithfully adhered to.*—When the Galatian Churches relinquished the doctrine of justification by faith, brotherly love seemed to have fled with this important truth: so that the Apostle found it necessary to warn them, "If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Every departure from the truth prepares the way for future strife. And, brethren,

never forget, that it is the truth as it is in Jesus that must sanctify from the strange fire of unhalloved zeal, and break the bonds of selfishness which encircle the human breast. But to accomplish this effectually, that truth must be known, believed, and held fast.

5. *The cultivation of a higher standard of piety* would do more than any thing else to secure the peace of Zion.—The nearer the Church approximates to the world, the greater will be the cause for discord. Hear the the Apostle reproving a Church whose piety was too low: "For whereas there is among you envying and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" Eminent piety would contribute to the peace of Zion, because it would bring believers more under the influence of those principles which form the elements of the christian character, in the truth and importance of which all true Christians are agreed. Cultivate, then, the graces of the Holy Spirit, and the spirit of peace will be with you.

And now, brethren, having by various motives endeavoured to persuade you to seek the peace of Zion, and given some directions for the attainment and security of this blessing, we would, in conclusion, recommend the importance of every individual member of our churches putting the solemn enquiry, "What have I done? or what am I doing, to prevent the peace of Zion? Do I love her? And am I exerting an influence to promote her good? Do I prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy, and daily pray that peace may be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces?"

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, *live in peace*; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." Amen.

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"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."