

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

## MEANS OF PROMOTING LOVE AND HARMONY AMONGST CHURCH MEMBERS.

Nothing is more lovely than peace and harmony in a congregation of the followers of the Lamb. The jealousies, hard sayings, and bad spirit too prevalent at the present day amongst members of the same communion, nullifies the best labours of those who are desirous of seeing the cause of truth prosper: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." It should, therefore, be the daily study and devout prayer of every christian to know his own duty, and be disposed to live and act in such a manner as to give no offence to those in the church or out of it; unless it should be in the faithful discharge of his duties. If our individual actions occupied a greater proportion of our thoughts, and the gratification of our prejudices and partialities less, we should be more happy, and those with whom we are connected would derive more satisfaction from our labors.

However plain and obvious the truths we inculcate, and however zealous we may be in the dissemination of them, still they will have no lasting effects on the community, unless they see an exemplification of them in our lives. The mass of the community study men more than they do books, or men's theories proclaim *viva voce*; hence the necessity of living every day so that our lives may be a comment on our profession. We should not merely put on our religion as we would a "Sunday" coat; it should be our daily suit. In our families, stores, shops, in all our intercourse with men, we should leave the impression on every mind, that the glory of God, and the present and future happiness of our fellow men, are the ruling principles of our conduct under all circumstances.

Any system of religion or unreligion, however absurd, may be successfully disseminated, if its devotees are zealous, combine their energies, and keep united. Who would believe that the proclamation of Athiestic principles would have a single convert in a land of Bibles and general intelligence? Who could for a moment imagine that men would be so infatuated as to suppose that this earth, with all its minerals, vegetables and animals, and man himself, were the production of blind chance; and that there is no intelligent first cause in the universe?