

without it. A man may be a member of any particular Church, and though he have thus a name to live, be dead ; but all the members of the Church of Christ are a live from the dead, by virtue of the quickening power of the Spirit of God who dwells in their hearts.* The Church, is the body of Christ ;† and if it be undeniably true that “ he who committeth Sin is of the devil,”‡ Can such a one be at the same time, a member of this sacred body ? It matters not how excellent the discipline may be, or how true the doctrine of any particular Church ; a man may be surrounded by piety of which he is not a partaker ; and if he be not a partaker of it, it will only serve to aggravate his crime in the great day of accounts, that though he knew to do good, yet he did it not.

AGAINST the Church of Christ, the gates of hell shall not prevail. This does not mean that particular Churches may not become extinct. Our Lord threatened certain lukewarm Christians, that if they repented not, the Candlestick should be removed from its place.§ Particular Churches

* Eph. 2—1, &c. † Eph. 1—23. ‡ 1 John 3—8. § Rev. 2—5.