

And this is the Church. How much controversy has been waged around that word. What claims have been made by various organizations and systems, to the exclusive right to use the name ; and what authority has been assumed, in that name, over the life, the conscience, and the faith of men, and all because they failed to see the true nature of the Church. The Church is not an earthly organization, with officers and forms and machinery. It is a heavenly thing ; it exists in heavenly places ; its life is there ; all its worship, its fellowship, its spiritual exercises, its blessings are there. It is the body of Christ, and like its Head, its sphere is the spiritual realm. Being united to Christ, its unity is evident. There is but one Church ; it can neither be formed by man, nor can man divide or unite it. We hear much talk about Church union, as if the uniting of earthly organization could make the Church one, or fulfil the prayer of Christ. Let the real unity of the Church as the body of Christ be recognized, and let the life from the one Head permeate all the members, and the matter of the union of earthly organizations becomes the merest incident.

Since the Church is the body of Christ, no Christian lives unto himself. He is related to all other Christians, as the hand to the rest of the body. A member of the body severed from the other members, dies at once. So would a member of the body of Christ. Life depends upon unity.

And since the Church is the body of the glorified Christ, it shares His honor, His rank, His glory. "As He is, so are we in this world." The power of God to usward when He set Him at His own right hand, far above all ranks of heavenly beings, consists in that He raised all