

It is not a question of how much harm you can find by analyzing this, or that worldly practice. It is not a question of how many good or great men carried a similar blemish on their Christian character; but *this* is for us to decide. How can a worldly Church win a wicked world? How can we influence those heavenward, whom we permit to draw us the other way? Are we not on the backward swing of the pendulum, so that what Cowper wrote a hundred years ago or more, would be true to-day?

Renounce the world the preacher cries—  
We do—a multitude replies;  
While one as innocent regards  
A snug and friendly game of cards;  
And one, whatever you may say,  
Can see no evil in a play;  
Some love a concert or a race,  
And others shooting and the chase;  
Reveled and loved, renounced and followed,  
Thus bit by bit the world is swallowed;  
Each thinks his neighbor makes too free,  
Yet likes a slice as well as he.

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## A MANUAL OF DOCTRINE AND CHURCH POLITY.

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### XIII. THE NEW BIRTH.

1. When a sinner turns from sin to God, and gives himself to Christ, trusting wholly in Him, he is so changed that he is called in the Scriptures "a new creature."

2. His feelings, desires, aims and love, are all directed to new objects. He now lives for God.

3. This change, which is the work of the Holy Spirit, is called Regeneration, or the New Birth. And one who is regenerated, or born again, is said to be "converted." "Converted" means changed.

4. Anyone who refuses to believe in Christ, and who remains unconverted, cannot be saved.

5. Conversion is to be sought, in believing what the Bible testifies of Christ, and surrendering the soul to Him; and not by waiting for new feelings or experiences.

6. One evidence of conversion is a desire for the conversion and salvation of others.

7. New converts often dwell too much upon their feelings. The Spirit never directs our chief thoughts toward ourselves, but toward Christ.

### XIV. JUSTIFICATION AND ADOPTION.

1. Justification is where the sinner, trusting in Christ, and united to Him by faith, is accounted in God's sight as righteous.

2. Thus God's justice as well as His mercy is seen in justifying him that believeth in Jesus.

3. For it would be unjust to Christ, after sending Him to die for sinners, if God should reject any who trust in Christ.

4. God not only delivers the believer from condemnation, but gives him many blessings and privileges, as a child in his Father's House. This is called Adoption.

5. Those who are thus adopted, feel toward God as toward a loving Father, and seek to obey and please Him.

6. It is a sweet and blessed hope, that God will, one day, gather all His children home to His house above.

### XV. SANCTIFICATION AND HOLINESS.

1. The word Sanctification has in it two thoughts: that of being holy, and that of being separated.

2. The believer, being separated from the world, is made holy by God's Spirit. Believers should pray for themselves and others, that they may be made holy.

3. Christ desires our holiness, as well as our pardon. He gives us His powerful example, and the blessed help of His Holy Spirit.

4. Sanctification or holiness, is avoiding sin, in our thoughts, words and actions; doing the will of God, as revealed to us by the Spirit from the Word, and being wholly surrendered to Christ.

5. Sanctification begins the moment the soul is converted to God. One who is sanctified is a saint. Believers should never be afraid or ashamed of being called saints.

6. Sanctification or holiness is the great feature of heaven. Saints on earth should aim after what they expect to be in heaven.

### XVI. CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

1. When Christ ascended to heaven after His resurrection, the angels said He should come again "in like manner."

2. The Scripture says, "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the