



WILL THE CHURCH FAIL?

"We are challenged by this war to a deep and unrelenting detestation of the little bigotries, the needless divisions, that so deeply curse our churches. We must have a great religion to meet a great need."
—Rev. HENRY EMERSON FOSDICK

"We want a League of Nations for the protection of the world's peace, and we want a League of the Churches for the protection of the world's faith."
—HALL CAINE, in a letter to The Christian Herald

Next—a League of Churches!

Unity of command won the war. Will not the churches now unite to meet the even greater problems of Peace?



What is being done to gain unity

A FEW days ago a small group of Americans arrived in Europe. They were not business men seeking after-the-war markets. They were a delegation of church leaders to make definite plans for a worldwide conference of all Christian churches in all countries.

This effort is one of many in the direction of church unity. What will be the result?

Will the churches be merged, as has been proposed in Canada for the Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians?

Will the churches unite on certain general principles, without interfering in any way with the right of each man to worship as he chooses?

Will there be community federations, such as that in Indianapolis, where 200 churches, by combining their efforts, gained 34,000 new members in five years?

Some form of unity there must be. Yet not until we universally recognize the need, can the right plan be formed and successfully carried out.

Week by week the Christian Herald is explaining this movement, and is bringing to bear on it the thought of leaders in every walk of life.

PEACE is bringing the world its greatest problems, its greatest dangers.

Bolshevism is sweeping Central Europe.

Opposing aims of individual states, now that the war is over, are making a realization of the League of Nations, for which all have fought, difficult to attain.

Labor in every country of the old world is demanding an entire change in the present attitude toward industry, toward government, toward private property.

The world is yearning for a peace of freedom and justice. Yet not until we have settled the problems that face us today, can freedom and justice be made the rights of all.

These problems cannot be solved independently. They are all one problem—a problem which can be solved only by unity of action.

Unity of the Allied forces won the war. The French, British, and American armies were all individually strong. They had a common aim—to beat Germany. Yet not until they gained unity of command, unity of action, were they able to win.

Unity is now needed to make the victory of democracy secure, to make peace worth the fight.

The churches are individually strong. Minor differences they have, but all are united in a common Christian aim. The time has come when they must openly recognize that common purpose. The time has come when they must not merely think together, but work together.

Can we make Christianity count?

Just as Christianity counts in everyday personal morality, so must it be made to count in education,

in business, in politics, in national and international life. The League of Nations has cost the world 7,354,000 lives and \$200,000,000,000. To make The League of Nations an effective and permanent force for peace, our individual Christianity must take some definite concrete form.

There are in the United States 41,000,000 church members, 143,000 church buildings. Let us not waste these tremendous forces in the conflicting efforts of 170 separate denominations.

Let us rather emphasize the one thing which is common to all denominations—brotherhood. Let us unite the denominations in a League of Churches, not for the spread of particular doctrines, in which everyone must have liberty of belief, but for inspired public service, in which we all agree.

Church unity of this sort is no longer an idle question. It is the only means of safeguarding the future. Without it, the churches cannot meet what has become a world problem. Without it, in a time of great need, they are individually so inadequate that it is a real question whether the church itself will not fall.

One great force for unity

For 300,000 homes in this country the Christian Herald is the means of transforming the desire for Christian brotherhood into action. The Christian Herald is leading in the fight for a united church. Week by week the Christian Herald shows how the new spiritual awakening that is now sweeping the world must become, and is in fact fast becoming, a worldwide spirit of Christian unity.



What four great spiritual leaders say in current issues of The Christian Herald

"GOOD will among men as a substitute for force—can it succeed between nations? That is the test that Christianity is going through today. These words of The Christian Herald are the very ones and the only ones that can fit the crisis and seize the opportunity."—Rev. JUNIUS B. REMESSNYDER, Pastor St. James Lutheran Church, New York—in The Christian Herald for April 5.

"THIS is the day of the church's glorious privilege. God pity her if she should fail to embrace the opportunity!"—Dr. J. WILBUR CHAPMAN, late Moderator, Presbyterian Assembly.

"DEMOCRACY must control in religion as in every other department of organized life. In religion we have been too content to accept either autocracy or anarchy."—Dr. J. E. McAFEE.

"EVERY denominational name must be made secondary and subservient to the name Christian, not in theory but in practice."—Dr. FRANCIS E. CLARK, Founder and President, Christian Endeavor.

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