



Annual Meeting 2022 Speaker's Summary by Elise McCurties



Mary Baker Eddy's hymn, "Love", perfectly describes how to treat our fellow church members, our "brother birds". Mrs. Eddy says that brother birds delight in one another's company, work harmoniously together, and are united in a common purpose of healing. Brother birds are supportive during challenging times, speak kindly and humbly when they don't agree on issues, and let love - not fear or pride - govern their relationships.

God, divine Love, sets the standard for how we should love our brother birds. Divine Love is eternal, tender, and intelligent. Like the sun and rain, God's impartial love blesses everyone without respect to personal merit or favor.

Who loved in this way? Our great exemplar, Christ Jesus. That's why Mrs. Eddy highlighted Jesus as the example par excellence in her hymn. Doesn't she say, "Pray that his [Jesus'] spirit you partake who loved and healed mankind"? Jesus' whole teaching and healing ministry was a master class on how we must treat each other.

Jesus never gave up on his disciples no matter how they behaved, and we must have the same patient resolve when dealing with our fellow Christian Scientists. The Master set the standard for what it means to forgive and love our brother birds, and then he said, "If you want to be my disciple, my follower, a true Christian Scientist - go and do likewise." Mrs. Eddy explained that we must first treat each other with this Christly quality of love before we can convince the world of the truths of Christian Science.

It's so wonderful to know that we don't have to generate or create this love ourselves, but we are simply reflecting the love that God already has for us. This means we can love as Jesus loved because we reflect it effortlessly and naturally. This type of "Gabriel" love is crucial to our ability to practice Christian Science, because it is Love alone that heals.

In addition to knowing that we naturally reflect this divine Love, we can also handle the belief of spiritualism. More than just the belief of communion with the dead, spiritualism argues that we are all little spirits and souls, terms that our Leader links to personality. Mrs. Eddy explains in the chapter "Christian Science versus Spiritualism" in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, that the imposition of warring personalities attempts to sow disunity, misunderstanding and conflict in our branch churches. Thus it behooves us to handle the belief of personalities, spirits, and spiritualism, in order to demonstrate harmony and progress in our Movement.

Of course the reality is that there are no unlovable spirits or personalities. There are only the wonderful, brother bird ideas of God that freely soar and joyously sing and on the same branch - and in the same branch churches - harmoniously bend.

Citations:

Twelves Years with Mary Baker Eddy, 68
1 Peter 1:22
Luke 15:30, 32
John 21:7
John 13:34
Message '02 18: 16-21
Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer, 166

Rom. 13:8
1 John 4:19
Manual 40:7-11
SH 567: 1-12
We Knew Mary Baker Eddy vol.1, 296
SH 466:7
Luke 10:17, 20

SH 306:32-10
SH 72:9-12, 30-32
Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer, 230
Mary Baker Eddy Library L05468
Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy, 172