

THE OXFORD GROUP

A MANIFESTO

'And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.'

The spirit of Antichrist is with us, stronger than ever. It is flourishing in a tired, disillusioned world, in international relationships, governments, politics, business, and the home.

In recent years Kings have departed from their glories, Empires have fallen, Money has lost its power; Wars between nations, fought with every diabolical device that science can conceive, have proved as costly to the victors as to the vanquished.

The world has lost confidence in its leaders; the most eminent statesmen, economists, and pioneers of modern thought cannot honestly promise even economic stability in our life-time; what kind of world, spiritual or material, are we then to leave to our children?

YET LEADERS ALONE ARE NOT TO BLAME. All plans for world-reconstruction without God-direction must fail. Moral and spiritual decay, like a dry rot, makes our idealism a foolish dream. To many simplicity has given way to a mad scramble, not only for what they call Life, but for antidotes against the very satiation they have created; on millions of others, made impotent by economic conditions against which they feel they have no remedy, has fallen a dull acceptance of a hopeless and drab existence. Neither conferences nor leagues alone can cure human ills that spring from widespread spiritual inefficiency.

THERE IS A LEADERSHIP THAT IS GOD-CONFIDENT, because it trusts not itself but God and His guidance. Such leadership is our instant need. The world is slow to realize that the spiritual is more powerful than the material; that its confusion, moral and material, is caused by spiritual weakness and moral mistrust. Spiritual fellowship is a stronger weapon than finance; God's plan for the world infinitely greater and more perfect than any imposed by a government on its people. It is the Dictatorship of the Holy Spirit.

WE ARE NOW FIGHTING a greater War than any since the world began. It is not nation against nation, but Chaos against God.

WE NEED AN ARMY of new men and women, spiritually reborn. We need the character that God alone can produce through Jesus Christ. Changed lives are the raw material of the new world-order.

WHAT IS TO BE YOUR PART in God's plan for the reconstruction of the world? Loyalty to your country, to your religious belief, to your home-ties is a fine quality; but is it an active loyalty? Does it contribute any worth-while help to the moral and spiritual reconstruction of the world?

ALREADY THE MORAL OFFENSIVE has begun. Men and women are mobilizing to regenerate England. Your place is in this offensive. You cannot remain a neutral. God and His enemies alike demand your honest decision.

'This is how the love of God has appeared for us, by God sending His only Son into the world, so that by Him we might live.'

London,
October 1933.