

is that character or mind which is formed by God's word or truth.

We are apt to think that our own moral sense of things is the rule of holiness. But the word of God claims to be such a rule : "Sanctify them by Thy truth, Thy word is truth." (John xvii.)*

If that rule were applied to many a thing which the moral sense, or the religious sense, of man approves, how it would change its character ! And the Lord cannot change His standard of holiness, though He may be infinitely gracious to the shortcomings of His saints.

These other words, "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified through the truth," which stand in connection, have their own force and value also. Thus, in the whole of His utterance in John xvii., the Lord strongly takes a place apart from the world, and puts His saints in the like place, praying that they may be kept there. In this sense, I believe, He speaks of sanctifying Himself. Through all this church-age He is apart from the world and the earth, and sanctification depends on our communion with Him in that separated place. "The truth," testifying as it does of Him, links us with Him in that place ; and sanctification is thus "through the truth," leading us to fellowship with an unworldly Jesus.

* An act may be unholy, though done with a good conscience, because "the truth," and not the conscience, is the rule of holiness.