

warranted to reply.—Because the church has lived too much for *SELF*; because the church universal, was ever too ready to forget the glory of her Lord who bought her, and the claims of a world perishing without the gospel, and concentrate her thoughts and efforts on her own comfort and aggrandizement. This is the spirit of Antichrist which began early to manifest itself in the christian church, *self* in opposition to Christ, and the claims of *self* rather than, and before the claims of Christ and of His cause. The Apostle John warned the early christians of this fact.—They denied the Father and the Son. Why? That they might thus get rid of the claims of the only Living and True God and of His Son Jesus Christ, and set the claims of *self* up in opposition. This is the spirit of the Papacy—*self* in place of Christ, before Christ, above Christ, and to the utter neglect of Christ's little ones; *self* aggrandizement and not *self* denial, the consolidation of the Papal power and not the advancement of the spiritual reign of Christ in the hearts and over the spirits of men. Hence the Papacy has proved itself to be *the Antichrist our excellence*.

But whosoever lives to *self* rather than to Christ and sets his own claims before or above the claims of Christ and the Gospel, partakes of the Spirit of Antichrist, and is antichristian to the extent in which he thus acts, however heartily he may hate the papal antichrist.

The particular channels, ways, directions in which *self* may develop and set up its claims against the claims of Christ are as various and numerous as the dispositions of men and the desires of the human heart.

It may be long-cherished, much loved opinions, dogmas, doctrines which are not in accordance with the pure teachings of the Gospel of Christ; it may be habits, customs, ceremonies, methods of upholding and propagating the christian faith, which however much they may commend themselves to the fancies and notions of the corrupt human heart are contrary to the genius of Christianity and have no foundation in the Divine Word; it may be the pursuit of wealth, fame, power, knowledge or influence over others by means of one or all of these.

Whatever it may be that causes the professed followers of Christ to forget Him, and to ignore or set aside the claims of His gospel it is an evil development of *Self*, and as such stands condemned by the Gospel of Christ. For a christian, a true disciple, must be ready, not only to part with father, and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, but with *his own life also* as the call of his heavenly Master and Lord, (Luke xiv: 26, 27.) It cannot be otherwise, for this is the Spirit of Christ who left His Father's bosom, the glory and bliss of heaven for the privations, and sorrows, and woes of earth; though in the form of God, yea God blessed forever, became man, though guiltless, took on Him our guilt, and though the Prince of life, suffered the shameful death of Cross that He might save His people from the Second death and make them partakers of the life of God. Now believers being in Christ and therefore one with Him must have the same Spirit. As He gave all, so must they; as He gave Himself, so must they give themselves.

*This principle was well understood and promptly and faithfully acted upon by the Church of the Apostolic age. They cheerfully left all and followed Christ. When commanded so to do, they also put themselves and all they possessed at His disposal. This was the great outward cause of their success. As long as self was kept under Jesus and His blessed cause had the throne of the heart of the individual christian, and the supreme place in the counsels of the Church universal she was beautiful as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, and terrible as an army with banners. Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved? These christians, how they love one another! They were the wonder of their enemies. No power could crush them, no obstacle could withstand them, no barrier impede them in their glorious work while they abnegated self and were true to their heavenly Lord. But as soon as, and whenever or wherever self was permitted to raise its exacting head and the claims of Christ began to be, first thought less urgent, then set aside for a season, then ignored, or forgotten, or swallowed up in the engrossing*