

more knowledge, they cease to love. Christ knew the worst of the Church and yet loved her; and so He will never cease to love her.

II. CONSIDER IN THE SECOND PLACE THE GREAT SACRIFICE CHRIST MADE THROUGH HIS LOVE TO THE CHURCH.

Human love will not always bear examination. It is sometimes weak, not willing to make any sacrifice, or blind and reckless, acting foolishly. Christ in loving the Church made a great sacrifice, and He made it wisely, with the highest end in view. He gave Himself. He might have given 10,000 of His bright worlds, caused to cease for ever the joyous song and hearty service of all the holy angels, emptied heaven of their presence, and sent them to sigh out their lives on so many shameful crosses; yea, He might have given for the bride of His choice the whole created universe, but He gave more.

HE GAVE HIMSELF.

How? In two ways:

(1) *By leaving heaven, assuming our nature, living a holy life, and rendering a perfect obedience.*

What manifestation of love! what marvellous condescension! what a costly sacrifice!—the Eternal Son of God becoming man, the Lord of Glory taking upon Him human nature! If yon dazzling sun in the heavens would be transformed into the dim, flickering flame of the candle, if the angel Gabriel would appear in the form of a worm, we would partially comprehend the depth of such condescension; for the distance between the highest and lowest creature is finite and may be measured: but where is the line with which we may measure between the infinite and the finite, between Deity and humanity? Who can tell the distance between the manger in Bethlehem and the heights of glory whence the Son of God came? What love! The great Law Giver coming under the law and rendering a perfect obedience to that law in the stead of sinners! Christ gave Himself in His whole life on earth.