

cause He is in God's sight as Christ. (1 John iv. 17.) Christ being the perfectly accepted man at God's right hand, the Christian is looked at by God in the same position (Eph. ii. 6 : i. 6), sitting in heavenly places "in Christ." In that sense there cannot be any difference, and the ground of our acceptance cannot ever be imperfect. I repeat, we must not confound the movements of life with the ground of our acceptance. We can never have this too simple or clear. It does not make one despise the first actings of life, its first movings and breathings, however feeble and imperfect. I do not despise my child because he is not a man.

In the Ephesians (where what a Christian is is fully brought out) men are viewed as the "children of wrath" in their very nature (necessarily heirs of wrath, because God is what He is, and man is what he is). Every other distinction is lost sight of, because, in his character of a sinner, man is brought fully into the light of God. But having thus told us *what man is*, the apostle does not stop with man. He turns round, and begins at the other end. He now tells us *what God is*—that He is "rich in mercy," and (as the effect of this) that He has set us in heavenly places in Christ. And then comes our responsibility to walk consistently with this wonderful place.

"Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children ;

"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints ;

"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient, but rather giving of thanks.

"For this ye know that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

"Let no man deceive you with vain words : for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."