

symbolical acts, which makes ritualism so objectionable to many, and on account of which it is being so strongly opposed? This is an important question, and it demands an explicit answer. In giving that answer, I am fully conscious that I shall wound the sensibilities of fellow-Christians whom I believe to be in error, but I do it out of love to their souls, and from a sincere desire to make known to them the "way of God more perfectly." The surgeon is compelled, in the discharge of his duty to probe the wound which the enemy has inflicted, and he cannot do it without ministering pain.

Let me, therefore, explain what ritualism is. Ritualism, in a bad sense, is the use of ritual to teach false doctrine. More particularly, it means, in the Church of England at the present day, the use of ritual to express belief in the false doctrine of what is termed "the Real Presence (not in the sacrament), but in the consecrated elements of bread and wine in the Supper of the Lord." By this is meant the real presence of our Lord's glorified humanity (not divinity only, but humanity) in, with, or under, the elements of bread and wine; in consequence of which it is held and taught that the human body of our Lord, now glorified, is taken and eaten by the mouth of those who receive the elements. This is the doctrine for which Ritualists strongly contend, and which all their ritual acts are intended to express or imply. This, on the other hand, is the doctrine against which non-Ritualists strenuously protest on the grounds of Scripture and reason, and for the denial of which the Reformation martyrs shed their blood. By this doctrine Ritualists may be easily recognized and tested, and by its non-acceptance a non-Ritualist may be known. He who believes it will naturally reverence the bread and wine. He will pay adoration, not indeed to the elements themselves, but to what is supposed to be in, with, or under them. He will give the holy table a prominent position in the chancel. He will elevate the paten and the cup for worship. He will attach a special sanctity to the place where the special Presence is supposed to be. He will adopt the eastward position, as the position of a sacrificing priest, and he will practise those bowings and genuflections and ceremonies which are now so common and so offensive to those who prefer the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus.

If the question be asked, Why so offensive? the answer is manifold: