

lies, after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that we may be wholesome and Godly examples and patterns for the people to follow." If we do this, our lives will preach more powerfully than our sermons; if we do not, our preaching will be all in vain.* Every one exercises an influence upon those around him, for good or for evil, and this is more particularly the case with the minister. But let us strive to be, what we desire to *appear to be*, and the unconscious influence thus exercised will be much more effective than that which flows from any studied pattern, however correct. The assumption of the appearance of having arrived at a higher degree of holiness than we have actually acquired, will be injurious to ourselves, whatever it may be to others, as it will tend to self-deception. If we are indeed led by the Holy Spirit, his fruits will be manifested in us; but if not, we only act a hypocritical part, however good our intentions may be, when we endeavor, for the sake of our people, to appear as if we were living under his influence.

"We are ambassadors for Christ;" we hold a commission from the King of kings. Oh let us strive to be worthy representatives of Him, in whose stead we are to proclaim the word of reconciliation. And let us take heed to deliver faithfully the message with which we are entrusted, forgetful of self, seeking not the praise of men, but anxious only to please Him who hath called us, and to be working together with Him. We cannot escape our obligations, we cannot divest ourselves of our commission if we would. Woe unto us if we preach not the Gospel. Let us then devote ourselves, body and soul, to the work. Surely we cannot be slothful, we cannot be unfaithful, if we bear continually in mind, on the one hand, the miserable condition of him who, "after preaching to others," shall himself be "a cast-away;" and on the other, the glorious recompense awaiting him, who, when the time of his departure is at hand, can say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me, a crown of

* The priest that is not "clothed with righteousness," though otherwise richly adorned with all the ornaments of human and divine literature, and those gilded over with the rays of a seraphic prudence and sagacity, is yet but a naked, beggarly, despicable creature, of no authority, no interest, no use or service in the Church of God. The unholy preacher, let him preach never so well, discourseth to little purpose; there will be no life in his doctrine, because his life is so destitute of the Spirit of holiness; he will sooner damn his own soul than save any man's else.—*Bishop Bull.*