

Him in being always obedient to the will of God. All that moves in the sphere of man's will is sin. Christianity pronounces the assertion of its exercise to be the principle of sin. We are sanctified unto obedience (1 Pet. i. 7) : *the essence of sanctification is the having no will of our own*. If I were as wise (so to speak) as Lucifer, and it administered to my own will, all my wisdom would become folly. True slavery, is the being enslaved by our own will; and true liberty consists in our having our own wills entirely set aside. When we are doing our own wills, *self* is the centre.

The Lord Jesus "took upon himself the form of a servant" and "being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. ii. 7, 8.) When man became a sinner, he ceased to be a servant, though he is in sin and rebellion, the slave of a mightier rebel than himself. When we are sanctified we are brought into the place of servants as well as sons. The spirit of sonship just manifested itself in Jesus, in doing the Father's will. Satan sought to make His sonship at variance with unqualified obedience to God: but the Lord Jesus would never do anything, from the beginning to the end of His life, but His Father's will.

In this chapter the spirit of obedience is enforced towards those who rule in the church, "Obey them that have the rule over you," (v. 17.) It is for our profit in everything, to seek after this spirit. "They watch for your souls," says the Apostle, "as