

seeing without holiness no man can see the Lord. And 'tis seriously recommended to all ministers and preachers of the gospel, That in pressing moral duties, or obedience to the law, they shew the nature and excellency of gospel holiness, and enforce conformity to the moral law, both in heart and life, not from principles of reason only, but also, and more especially, of revelation: And in order thereto, it is necessary to shew men the corruption and depravity of human nature by their fall in Adam, their natural impotence for, and aversion to what is spiritually good, and lead them to the true and only source of all grace and holiness, viz. union with Christ, by the Holy Spirit's working faith in us, and renewing us more and more after the image of God: And to let their hearers know, that they must first be grafted into Christ as their root, before their fruit can be savoury unto God; that they must have a new principle to animate, and a new end to direct them before their actions become gracious and acceptable in the sight of God: And that they teach them the necessity of living by faith on the Son of God, in a constant looking to, and dependence upon him, as the great author of all gracious influences for the performance of every duty; and withal, that after their best performances and attainments they must count themselves but loss and dung, in point of justification before God; and to make it their great desire only to be found in Christ, and his righteousness: And that ministers in application of their sermons, endeavour rightly to divide the word of truth, speaking distinctly to such various cases of the converted and unconverted, as arise natively from the subject they have been handling: And that in the whole of their discourses, they take care to suit themselves to the capacity of their hearers, as to method, matter, and expression, and to the prevailing sins of the time and place, with all prudent and zealous freedom and plainness: As also, that they make gospel subjects their main theme and study, and press with all earnestness the practice of moral duties in a gospel manner: And that they forbear delivering any thing in public, that may tend more to amusement than edification, and beware of bringing into their sermons and public discourses, matters of doubtful disputation, which tend to engender strife, rather than promote the edification of Christians: And all are exhorted to study to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace: And finally 'tis recommended to all professors of divinity, to use their best endeavours to have the students under their care well acquainted with the true method of preaching the gospel as above directed; and that presbyteries at their privy censures, enquire concerning the observation of this *Act 7. Ans. 1736,*