

Peter as its supporter; and therefore the See of Rome, which regards him as its first bishop, has been historically consistent in developing ritualism as an essential part of its ecclesiastical system. Paul, on the other hand, is the preacher of reason, the systematic theologian of the apostolic college; who, from the scattered sayings of the Master, strove to evolve a system of theology which would bring to bear the highest lessons and implications of the incidents of his life and death upon the problems of human experience. Theologians have ever since been engaged upon the same unending problem, complicated, however, still further, in their case, by the difficulty of reconciling Paul's theories with the works and deeds of the Master.

Christ's Sermon on the Mount, which may be accepted as the moral code of Christianity, lays down few precise or formal injunctions for the regulation of conduct. It enforces the law of Moses, but extends its provisions, requiring followers, while not neglecting the mere, formal enactments, to live up to the intention which underlies them, no matter whither it may lead. The code insists on purity and sincerity of motive: men must aspire to the highest conception of life, which is trust in God as a Father and sympathy with their kind. It enunciates principles which are as applicable to the twentieth century as they were to the first, and to the West as well as to the East. It does not lay down rules which could not be applied to the shifting conditions of society. Thus Christianity can become the world's religion.

Had Jesus laid down a code of maxims and laws, instead of inculcating certain general principles for the regulation of life, there would have been more consistency in church history, but less elasticity in the application of his religion to the shifting wants of mankind during the ages. Had Jesus likewise formulated a system of doctrine or form of ritual for worship, there would have been some ground for the charge of heresy against those of his followers who might have deviated from his precise rule. The systems of doctrine, the rituals, and all the devices which have been used by the