

door. Men arrive at conclusions with reference to the spirit that prompted certain words or acts of another, while their knowledge of the events and causes are very imperfect, to say the least, and often quite erroneous. If you will read your Bible carefully, I think you will find that it condemns the act of passing judgment without knowledge.

But allow me to point out some of the mistake, frequently made with reference to some of these tempers. Some persons seem to think, that when we are sanctified we must lay aside all firmness, and be ready to yield our will to the will of every other person, right or wrong. This is a sad mistake. We are to yield our wills to God and not to man. We often find that the will of man is contrary to the will of God concerning us. In this case we have no right to yield to man. I know that the very persons who require things contrary to the will of God are those who think that we sin by refusing to submit to their wills, and represent to the world that we have exercised unhallowed tempers. But, my friend, you are not required to submit to oppression and wrong. Where you have the power to rid yourself of it, it is your duty to do so. It is your duty to yourself, to God, and to your fellow man. The more you yield to an unsanctified will of man, the more you will be shorn of your strength; and your oppressor will be the more confirmed in his wickedness; and God will be dishonored. *He loves justice still.* But we must see to it that we resist the will of man in a Christian spirit; not with railing or angry words. Here your conduct may be misrepresented, but never mind that. Do your duty, and leave the results with God. Some condemn the exercise of all firmness or earnestness of purpose in a sanctified soul, calling it anger. Such talk very much about meekness, long-suffering, and patience, which means with them soft passivity, having no stability about you, suffering forever, and suffering everything, and at the same time pretending to think that it is right that you should do so, which you cannot think if you have a sane mind; for neither reason nor the revealed will of God teaches any such thing. I have met persons who thought they were exercising great grace in submitting to the will of others, whereas it was really sinful for them to do so.

My friends, I know not where your besetment lies. That depends somewhat upon your natural disposition and temperament. You *may* know it. I know for myself. If you are given to resistance of rightful and righteous authority, you thus resist the will of God. Submit your will to the will of God, and He will teach what to resist and what to yield to. He can correct the temper whatever the error may be. There is one right path and two wrong ones. Stray not either to the right hand or to the left. And then, with reference to forgiving our enemies, we are to do just as our Great Example Jesus Christ did. Love them, pray for them, and maintain a readiness to forgive them fully, and take them again into our favor just as soon as they repent; but we are nowhere in the Word of God taught to forgive a wrong while the offender continues in the wrong, or till he repents. To do so is in the nature of things an absolute impossibility. We are simply to maintain a spirit of forgiveness. God requires the exercise of just such a spirit in his