

other hand, there are duties incumbent on us which we cannot learn from his example, such as repentance, the giving up of sinful habits, and the crucifying of the flesh with its affections and lusts. These duties indicate a proneness to sin, and hence could have no place in the conduct of the sinless Jesus.

1. The example of Jesus is perfect, and consequently is adapted to the wants of men. Man is an imitative being. But in consequence of our depravity, we are apt to imitate the deficiencies rather than the excellencies of our fellow men; so that, if we are to have an example, one whom we are to follow in all things, he must be perfect in order to be adapted to our wants. Now, such an one is Jesus. His character and conduct exhibit a pattern of absolute holiness. Neither sins of commission nor omission can be laid to his charge. Throughout his whole life he ever did those things that pleased his heavenly Father. He could turn to the Jews, who wished to get an accusation against him, and say, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" The Scriptures abound with proofs of the perfection of the Redeemer's character. It is shadowed forth in the ceremonies of the ancient economy. The priest had to be free from physical blemish before he was allowed to minister before the Lord. And why was this? Because the Jewish priest was a type of the great high priest that was to appear in the end of the world, and offer himself up as a sacrifice once for all.

None of the excellent ones of the earth, not even those who have been eminent for piety, were fit to be set forth as examples to us in all things, for none of them has been perfectly free from sin. There never was a just man upon the earth, who from the first dawn of moral agency, to the day of his death, has done good and sinned not. All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Even those who have been renewed in the spirit of their minds, and have become remarkable for their piety, have sometimes fallen into sin. And it is worthy of notice that the sins of which they have been guilty, were very often directly opposed to those virtues for which they were remarkable. For example, Abraham, who was distinguished for his faith, was guilty of equivocation. Moses, the meekest man upon the earth, spake imprudently. The patient Job murmured, and cursed the day of his birth. And Peter, whose distinguishing peculiarity was boldness, denied his Master when taunted with being a follower of the despised Galilean. Thus we see that we are sure to be led astray