

Christ pronounced spiritual evil more dangerous than fleshly vice. The publicans and harlots were nearer the Kingdom of Heaven than the hide bound formalists of the Jews. On such a principle the church's coldness and deadness, doctrinal error and moral dulness, is now a more serious menace to the welfare of humanity than even such giant evils as the drink traffic. The Holy Spirit's power alone can remove the evils of the world, and by thus diverting His energy, they leave the world's wrongs untouched and add to them the blight of soulless ceremonialism.

Christ detested particularly sins of inhumanity. The inhumanly selfish, like the priest and Levite who passed by the wounded traveller; the inhumanly wealthy, like the rich man of the parable; the inhumanly religious like, the teachers who made an unbearable load out of what should have been the means of grace, were his peculiar aversions. And the greatest sins that curse the race arise out of a disregard of the ordinary feelings of humanity.

In all His thought sin means death. His own sufferings were a most awful testimony to its destructiveness. Deep as was His sympathy for the fallen, He knows no way of salvation for them but by a return to their Father's House, and to the paths of virtue. And the great aim of His life and death was to make this possible.

In His opposition to iniquity the following are the principles He followed :

*He first tried to win the evil-doers.* His success in this with the publicans and sinners was the wonder of his time. The Jewish authorities, however, He signally failed to gain. Nothing in all His history is more pathetic than his vain attempts to teach them the truth, to touch and awaken their spiritual instincts and to turn them from their obstinate unbelief which was driving them fast to destruction. The first half of St. John's Gospel shows how he returned again and again to the attempt, even in the face of hatred and contumely.

Men recognize this now in religious reform. Time was when he who could not stand the church's coldness went out