

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM

Christianity is commonly defined as the system of doctrines and precepts delivered to mankind by Jesus Christ. It is the view which Jesus had of the Divine being and His relation to men and of men's relations to Him and to one another; but no definition of Christianity would be adequate, no statement of its essential contents would be complete, that did not recognize it, not merely as a system of doctrines, but as an awakening and impelling force. Its essential truths, when earnestly and fully applied to the real conditions of our human life, cannot be received like the axioms of mathematics, in a passive or indifferent mood, they force their way down to the depths of our human nature, and they not only compel thought but they arouse and move with different results in different persons; in some they awaken sympathetic response, and in others a passionate antagonism, and these results are