

16 CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM

The third reason why Christianity is so imperfectly understood is one that is inherent in us all, and which is at the back of the other reasons that have been set forth, namely, the fact that human nature is averse to the indispensable conditions by which spiritual insight into genuine Christianity is given. Human nature is averse to self-denial, and hates any moral restraints upon its wilful and pleasure-loving propensities. Jesus Christ laid special emphasis upon humility, meekness, patience, a disposition not to retaliate for injury done; renunciation of earthly interests for the higher realities of the spiritual life; the surrender of present pleasures, comforts and ambitions for the higher interests of His cause; and He taught that knowledge of His teachings came by spiritual insight or revelation to those who were *obedient* to His commandments: "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching," John 7: 17 (R.V.); and "If ye continue in my word then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," John 8: 31-32. So because they consider Christ's demands to be in-