

While God's nature is love, His character is righteousness; hence His forgiving grace is not mere indulgence of the sinner, and the Atonement is not a means by which God ignores sin and releases the sinner. It is rather a means by which He shows His eternal hatred and horror of sin, because it destroys His children; while, at the same time, He shows His love for His children by saving them from the soul-destroying sin.

Jesus could reveal God only by condemning sin, exalting righteousness, and loving the sinner. God does all these unceasingly, and calls upon man to do the same. In as far as man obeys this call he becomes, like Christ, a revealer of God; and in this sense every man may be a Christ. In these facts lie the whole truth concerning the Atonement.

There is an element in every man's nature which is capable of responding to the call of righteousness. That element is perpetuated and total depravation prevented by the Atonement. Thus the Holy Spirit finds in every man a means of approach to his heart, in consequence of the life and death of Christ.