

## THE HIGHER LIFE: "DEAD UNTO SIN, ALIVE UNTO CHRIST."

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DEAD is the most absolute term in human speech. It admits of no modification. It has no degrees. When one is dead, that settles all possible relations to worldly matters. There is no going back of this fact. It is final. A man may retain some lingering interest in things in any other state. A man may be sick even beyond the hope of the physicians, and still retain a chance of return. He may be a prisoner in a secluded dungeon, yet, like Richard, he may come out to dominion. He may be deserted by every friend, and wrecked in every virtue; still, while life lasts, there is hope. But when he is dead, *he is dead*. It is impossible to use a stronger term or combination of terms to convey the idea of separation, absolute and unchangeable separation, from the things of this life. When Paul talks about our being *dead unto sin*, he is exhausting the capabilities of human thought to conceive, and of human language to express, the idea of separateness from sin.

Whatever theory we may entertain about our privileges and duties in Christian experience, there can be no doubt that Paul thought that sainthood or Christian life involved a deadness unto sin that extended to every possible relation to it.

"Crucified unto the world" is another expression for deadness unto the world and unto sin. If it is possible for you to have any faculty dead, and yet acting as if it were not dead at the same instant, then it will be possible for you to tone down the devotement demanded by apostolic injunction. Consecration that puts the old nature to the sword, that can truthfully count itself "dead unto sin" and "crucified unto the world," is a divine requirement. Your grandfather is, long ago, crumbled back to dust; what interest has he in the politics or excitement of this life. New railroads may run over his ashes, but he has not the slightest concern. Are you thus dead unto sin? Is your crucifixion unto the world such as to separate you from its habits, desires, strifes, plans, ambitions, prides, and spirit?