

Religion and Science.

RELIGION implies man's union with God. The word is derived from religare, which, in its widest sense, signifies a living union of man and God. Why living? Because it is effected by vital acts of men, by his thoughts, desires and actions. It is by means of religion that we pay to our Creator the honor, the respect, the homage which is rightfully His due. Happiness can only be obtained by submission to God and by obedience to His holy will,—that is, by practicing religion.

We may consider religion as a science which far surpasses the other sciences in excellence. But there is a vast difference between the science of religion and the other sciences. The substance of the former is communicated by divine revelation of the latter by exercise of reason. The certainty of other sciences depend upon the reason of man, that of religion depends upon the wisdom and truthfulness of God. As far, then, as God excels man, so far does the science of religion excel the other sciences.

Faith is the prime requisite of religion. There are many things which our petty minds cannot grasp; but the fact that these things have been spoken and established by God Himself is sufficient proof for us to believe them. True, many things viewed in the light of reason, seem to us impossible; but, nevertheless, we believe them because we have the highest motives for our belief. Our faith in God, Who cannot err, enables us to do so.

Looking over the history of the past, and also of the present time, we find its pages debased by the opinions of many, principally men of knowledge, who laugh and scoff at the very idea of religion, who have drifted so far away from God as to hold their opinions superior to those of their Creator, who even deny the existence of God. Where such ideas exist, religion can have no place, and no honor or respect is shown to the All-powerful. Puffed up with their own erroneous opinions, they are not content to keep them to themselves, but, instead, impart them to others, giving perhaps seemingly apparent reasons, which appeal to many. The result is that many people are lead astray.

Knowledge and religion should go hand-in-hand. But, unfortunately, too often the reverse is the case. In many instances, as a man's learning increases, his virtue decreases. His faith is