

FRIENDSHIP THE CORE OF RELIGION

of Christ alone, but by the living friendship of the Christ who was God incarnate, showing His friendship for men by taking upon Him the human form and suffering death for them. Calvary was the crowning glory of an age-long friendship of God with men, of which the Bible is the story.

See Jehovah as He goes with the Children of Israel up from Egypt, teaching and disciplining them, bearing with their failings, and forgiving their shortcomings, that they may at last become strong and true and great. See Him taking up His visible abode with them at Jerusalem, inspiring His prophets and His priests to tell those who lacked the spiritual sense in its full intensity of His wondrous love. Look at the laws He gave them. What are they but restrictions to keep them from going where He could not be their friend. "Thou shalt not kill." What does that mean? Not only that human life is sacred, but that God does not want us to do that which would cut us off from His friendship. "Thou shalt not steal." This is not a police regulation to protect property, but a hint from God that He who is righteousness and justice wants His friends to be like Him. "Thou shalt not commit adul-