

a servant—homeless, persecuted, despised. Though rich yet for our sakes He became poor. His intellect was large and comprehensive, and His powers of oratory were unique; yet we find in Him no taint of the pride that is so apt to follow intellectual power and successful effort, and popular applause. Dost thou boast of ancient and noble family descent? Here is One who was from all eternity the Son of God, and yet how humbly does He mingle with the children of want and sin! Dost thou pride thyself upon thy stately mansion, thy broad acres, thy abundant riches? Here is One whose palace is the Universe—(nay the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain Him!)—whose wealth is inexhaustible, whose territory is boundless as space; and yet He stoops to the lowest of the lowly, to the poorest of the poor! O may not our weak self-love, our wicked and silly pride be torn up by the roots by an example such as JESUS has set before us!

5. We must follow JESUS in a life of active beneficence. Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous. He went about constantly doing good. No one ever toiled more incessantly. Ease, comfort, sleep, food, all considerations of this sort were sacrificed to the one all-absorbing desire of relieving misery and turning souls to God. For this he confronted all danger and underwent all trials.—Christian, do like Christ. "He that gives alms to the poor takes Jesus by the hand; he that patiently endures injuries and affronts helps Him to bear His cross; he that comforts his brother in affliction gives an amiable kiss of peace to Jesus; he that bathes his own and his neighbour's sins in tears of penitence and compassion, washes his Master's feet." He that is in Christ walks as He also walked, works as He wrought, and acts out the same spirit of Godlike self-sacrifice. Active Christians are the great want of the age. We have enough and to spare of passive Christians, who have in them the faith of Devils, a correct, cold, unloving, selfish, fruitless, dead faith! Away with such! They dishonour the name of Christ. They crucify Him afresh. Professing Him with the mouth, in works they deny Him.

In the Church they may pray and sing and groan; but when you ask them to *sacrifice* anything for God or for men, to *do* anything that is really Christlike, you speak to the dead, and all your asking is in vain. Christian, you have not so learned Christ!

6. We must be like Christ in the endurance of suffering, whatever may be our allotted share. "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; who when He was reviled reviled not again; when He suffered He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." We must all suffer in many many ways, and after much suffering we must encounter death. Is it not well that we have a Pattern before our eyes—One who contended against gigantic evils—One who was tempted as we are—One who died a death of violence and shame in the full bloom of manhood!—*Lover and friend forsook Him; brothers and beloved disciples failed Him and fled when the test-hour came but He endured all with patience and submission. When in the hour of distress He prayed for Himself the burden of His prayer was for submission to His Father's will.*

7. Christ was ever faithful and true, doing battle for the truth and the right with ruler and Sadducee and Pharisee. He was ever gentle and loving; ever bold and honest and unflinching; binding up the broken hearted and hurling woe upon woe against the proud scornors of His grace. He was Truth itself. He would not tell a lie or act a lie to save the world; but He could die to save it! Hoary shams and venerable errors found no quarter with Christ; He denounced *them* and their hypocritical defenders with no parlour rhetoric, with no graceful euphemisms but with words that still ring with a divine energy through the centuries. The interests of truth are of paramount importance; there is no altar on which we may dare to sacrifice them. Christian, be true as Knox and Calvin and Luther were true—as Paul and John the Baptist were true—as CHRIST was true!

We must endeavour to be like CHRIST in all His imitable attributes and conduct and traits of character. Like Him we must be