**OBEDIENCE AND THE NEW CREATION**

By Ernie Richards

As believers begin to understand that we are not only “saved by grace,” but that we also “stand” by grace (Ro. 5:1-2) and live under grace (Romans 6:14; Gal. 3:1-3; Col. 2:6), many growing Christians are puzzled as to where obedience now fits into their lives.

God gave Israel a law to live under, the Law of Moses, that set them apart from all other nations. God told Israel more than once that He did not deal this way with any other nation (Psalm 147:19-20; Deut. 4:5-8, 32-34; Amos 3:2). This law was part of God’s program to set up Israel as a theocracy; a nation governed by Him alone (Exod. 19:5-6; Deut. 6:1-25).

It soon became clear, however, that living by God’s law presented an impossible burden to men. Because the human race has fallen into sin, they lack the kind of heart (the inner disposition and control center) needed to keep God’s moral commands (Deuteronomy 5:29; Joshua 24:19-22; John 7:19; Acts 7:51-53; 10; Hebrews 8:7-9).

In fact, Paul, who, at one time, “after the most straitest sect of (Jewish) religion . . . LIVED A PHARISEE” (Acts 26:5), teaches that taking on ourselves the “yoke of the law,” (the responsibility of performing it) will automatically bring us “under the curse” of the law, because it places us under obligation to perform ALL the law perfectly, all the time (Gal. 3:10; 5:3; James 2:10) and we will most certainly fail. Because we are born as members of Adam’s fallen race, and have an inner disposition towards sin (our “flesh” or “sin nature”), none of us CAN keep the law all the time perfectly (Romans 7:18-25; 8:7). The law, in fact, will only exasperate us and actually PROVOKE us to sin more (Romans 5:20; 7:5-14)!!! For these reasons, Paul says outright that the “law worketh wrath” (it only brings us under God’s holy anger). He calls it “the ministration of death” (II Cor. 3:7) and “the ministration of condemnation” (II Cor. 3:9).

As members of Christ’s Church in the age of Grace, scripture says very definitively that we are “not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14) and that we are, in fact, “DEAD TO THE LAW” (Romans 7:4; Gal. 2:19). Although many Christians still believe and teach that the Church age believer is under obligation to keep the law, the inspired Word of God clearly says otherwise.

However, though we are not under law, it cannot be denied that God still calls us to righteousness and to obedience! GOD’S MORAL ABSOLUTES HAVE NOT CHANGED (Hebrews 13:8); THE NEED FOR GOD’S CHILDREN LIVING HOLY LIVES HAS NOT CHANGED (I Peter 1:14-16; II Cor. 7:1; Hebrews 12:14), BUT THE WAY IN WHICH HOLY, RIGHTEOUS LIVING IS ACCOMPLISHED **HAS** CHANGED RADICALLY!

**GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US ANOTHER “LAW” TO LIVE UNDER, BUT A LIFE TO LIVE IN**.

The Bible says when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, we were “born again” as the children of God (John 1:12-13; I John 5:1). God says at this point we receive the gift of eternal life (John 3:16; 4:10; Romans 6:23) and actually become New Creations in Christ (II Cor. 5:17; Galatians 6:15). This gift of Eternal Life is actually none other than Christ’s own TRUE LIFE (I John 5:11; see also Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; 3:4).

The Bible says the “new man,” that is, the new creation I now really am, is created after God’s own likeness, “in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24). The new man is also described as “renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him” (Col. 3:10). The Bible further tells me that the new man in me is the very “seed” of God, Himself, and that new man, born of God, does not sin and is not capable of sin (I John 3:9)!!

It is absolutely critical that every Christian realize that he or she has undergone a complete CHANGE OF IDENTITY. We really are NEW CREATIONS (II Cor. 5:17). It is VERY IMPORTANT that we, as Christians, ***BELIEVE*** WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE OF US AND, BY FAITH, IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH THE NEW CREATION.

After all, wouldn’t you agree that the most accurate, the most trustworthy and the most important things that can be said about me are the things *GOD* SAYS ABOUT ME? If GOD says I am a “new creation,” a “saint,” a “son of God,” who am I to *deny* this and insist I am still the same old poor sinner I used to be?

As mentioned, we all still have sin natures, and we all still commit sin (James 3:2), but, as to our TRUE IDENTITY, the Bible no longer sees us as “sinners,” but as “saints!” Our IDENTITY is not a matter of our performance, but is determined by our BIRTH. In other words, what I do does not dictate who I am; my birth determines who and what I am. A cat may bark like a dog, snort like a warthog or croak like a frog, but, at the end of the day, *THAT CAT IS STILL A CAT!*

In Paul’s very revealing discussion in Romans chapter 7, he says twice that, though he continues to do the things that the law and his own new nature condemn, “it is no longer **I** that do it,” he says, “but SIN THAT DWELLETH IN ME” (Romans 7:17, 20). This does not mean that Paul refuses to take responsibility for the sins he commits; he is merely saying that these acts do not define him – they are not the acts of the new creation that he now truly is, but of the fallen sinner he once was AND NO LONGER IS. He is claiming the truth of his new identity in Christ and disclaiming any connection with his former self, the “old man” who was a slave to sin (Romans 6:6-7).

 In Romans 6:17, Paul says he thanks God that the believers of Rome “WERE the servants of sin” (PAST TENSE!), but are now “made FREE from sin” and have become “the servants of God.” This does NOT AT ALL deny that saved people still do commit sin, but is speaking of WHO THEY ARE IN THEIR ESSENTIAL IDENTITY, ***regardless*** of what they actually DO (see also I Cor. 6:9-11; I John 3:1-2).

God has made wondrous provision so that I DO NOT ***HAVE TO*** SIN (I John 2:1). He has identified me with Christ through spiritual baptism (Romans 6:3; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27), so that when Christ died on the Cross to all of sin’s claims over Him, *I DIED TO SIN AS WELL*. Likewise, when Christ was raised from the dead, I was raised with Him in God’s reckoning (Ro. 6:1-10). As a result of this, I am told to “RECKON myself DEAD INDEED unto sin, and ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD” (Romans 6:11).

God has also given the Holy Spirit to live permanently within me (John 14:16-17; Romans 5:5; 8:9). The Holy Spirit has several active ministries He carries on inside of me. Among others, He illuminates the scriptures to me, shows me the things of Christ, and actively conforms me to Christ’s image as I focus on Christ in the scriptures (John 15:26; 16:12-15; I Cor. 2:9-15; II Cor. 3:18).

The Holy Spirit also leads me in the direction of Holy Living and will supply me with the power to LIVE a holy life as I depend upon Him by faith. He is the Spirit of Christ, so He reproduces CHRIST’S LIFE IN ME as I walk according to His leading and by His enablement (please read prayerfully Romans 8:1-13; Galatians 5:16-25). Again, this is absolutely critical for the Christian to realize. It is the very core of New Testament living.

It is also important to realize that, as a new creation in Christ, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, all of the Bible is FOR me, but not all the Bible is written TO ME. Much of the Old Testament was written expressly TO ISRAEL as a people under God’s law. As I am not a member of the nation of Israel, and am, in fact, a new creation in Christ, permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit, the law is not addressed to me.

Please don’t get me wrong! It is certainly very true that *ALL* the Bible still has invaluable APPLICATION to me (II Tim. 3:16; Romans 15:4; I Cor. 10:6, 11). I still gain PLENTY of godly instruction and encouragement from reading the Old Testament scriptures. But we are also told the scriptures must be “rightly divided” (II Tim. 2:15).

The portion of the Bible that is written expressly to me, a new creation saint IN CHRIST, is found in the New Testament epistles. There, I find the teachings of grace for the new creation in Christ, indwelt by the Spirit of God.

YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THE SAME MORAL ABSOLUTES GIVEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES ARE FOUND UNCHANGED IN THE COMMANDS AND EXHORTATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT – see Ro. 13:8-10, for instance! Again, God has NOT changed. The need for His children to live holy lives has NOT changed. What HAS changed is WHO IS DOING THE HOLY LIVING AND HOW THIS HOLY LIVING IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED!

Now, here is a very important truth to realize: these commands and exhortations given in the New Testament describe authentic righteous living. Since Christ is RIGHTEOUSNESS PERSONIFIED, you could say they also actually DESCRIBE the very LIFE of the Lord Jesus Christ, as lived out in us (Matt. 4:4; John 1:14-18; 6:63, 68; 8:25, 31-32; 17:17). THEY *ALSO* DESCRIBE THE NEW CREATION MAN I AM, WHO IS PATTERNED *AFTER* GOD AND IS GROWN FROM HIS OWN SEED IN US (James 1:18; I Peter 1:23; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).

For example, consider the description of true AGAPE love (what the King James Version calls “charity”) in I Corinthians 13:4-7. In all honesty, can any of us say those things describe you or me on our best days? I can tell you that I certainly have not lived up to the heaven-high standard of I Corinthians 13 in my Christian life. In fact, I have found there are some people that just seem IMPOSSIBLE for me to love in the way love is described in the famous "love chapter,” and yet, Paul says it is absolutely NECESSARY for me, as a Christian, to LOVE this way (I Cor. 13:1-3)!

The “secret” is that this supernatural kind of love is found ONLY in God, Himself (see I John 3:16-18; 4:7-10, 19, if you still doubt!)! He is the EXCLUSIVE SOURCE OF THIS LOVE in the universe! But since we are BORN of God, *created anew in His image*, and He actually LIVES IN US, we can realistically be called to love with that kind of love!

Often, when I am teaching on living the Christian life, a student will raise her hand and ask me, “Mr. Richards, what does that LOOK like?” I remember, in particular, a time when I was teaching the Life of Christ, and the Bible said “Then they that were in the ship came and WORSHIPPED Him” (Matt. 14:33). A student asked me, “worshipped Him – what does that LOOK like?”

I think we all understand the question. She was simply asking me to put real *flesh and bones* on these concepts. Well, I have come to the conclusion that the commands and exhortations of the New Testament epistles are what “Christ living in me LOOKS LIKE!”

Remember, the Bible also says I am actually born of the Word of God (I Peter 1:23; James 1:18)! And the Word of God is no dead thing – it is “quick (alive) and powerful!” You could say that the TRUE LIFE in me is the same stuff as the living, powerful, Word of God (John 6:63, 68; Hebrews 4:12; I Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 2:2)!

So, when I look at the commands and exhortations of the New Testament (and, really, much of the Old Testament, as well), I am NOT looking at another law I am under obligation to perform, but the things that are true of me, THE NEW CREATION IN CHRIST (I John 2:8). These commands are the very “stuff” I am made of!

Israel’s law was something that was actually foreign to who they truly were (Deut. 5:29; Hosea 8:12; Romans 7:14). It was burdensome and hard to them, because it required them to strive to be something they were not. It chafed against their very nature and provoked them and exasperated them (Acts 15:10).

The commands and exhortations of scripture addressed to the new creation in Christ do not burden and oppress me, they actually SET ME FREE to do the things my inward self truly longs and desires to do (Matt. 11:29-30; I John 5:3). In one sense, they actually just give me the authority to act like the man *I truly now am!* This is why the Bible refers to these commands as “THE LAW **OF LIBERTY**” (James 1:25; 2:8, 12)!

As I walk in these truths, in trusting dependence on the Holy Spirit to carry them out in me (Romans 8:1-4 KJV), I am not striving to perform in order to be someone I am not – I AM SIMPLY *REVEALING* THE NEW CREATION MAN I TRULY NOW AM!!!

I used to play the flute. I just had a cheap Bundy brand flute; the kind the parents bought all the kids who were taking band in school. Recently, I learned that the Louis Lot flute is considered by some to be the “Stradivarius” of concert flutes. The Louis Lot flutes were hand crafted by Louis Lot and his sons over just a couple decades and are among the finest musical instruments ever made. It would cost thousands and thousands of dollars to own one today.

Let’s say someone gave me a Louis Lot concert flute, worth $100,000 (I know – not likely!). When they placed it in my hands, I immediately lit up and replied, “Hey, great! I have these new Justin Bieber posters I’ve been waiting to hang in my office, and I lost my hammer! This will give me the perfect thing to use to hammer in those nails so I can get my posters hung!”

My benefactor might jump back in alarm and say, “Ernie, I am NOT going to let you use this magnificent instrument that way! That would destroy it!”

I could reply, “Well, it is MY flute, isn’t it? Then, am I not free to do with it as I choose? You are trying to stomp on my FREEDOM!”

My friend would likely respond, “Ernst, that is not ‘freedom,’ THAT IS STUPIDITY!”

Well, yes, it would be one kind of “freedom” to use the flute *however I choose*, even if so doing would destroy the value of the instrument forever. Maybe we should stop and carefully consider what TRUE FREEDOM really is!

I submit to you that no created thing is TRULY FREE until it is able to fulfill the purpose for which it was created. A flute was obviously designed for the purpose of playing beautiful music. The more beautiful the music and the more expertly it is played, the more completely and wonderfully the flute fulfills its own purpose for being!

If a flute had feelings and could talk, you might ask that flute, “when do you feel most fully FREE?” The flute would answer, “When I’m playing my Mozart!” People talk a lot today about how they find “fulfillment.” The flute is most “fulfilled” and most “free” when it is doing the very thing it was designed and created to do, to the very fullest extent, without anything hindering.

Flutes don’t have feelings and flutes rarely talk, but people do. Men and women were created for a purpose, as were flutes. We were created to bring glory to God and to enjoy Him forever (Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11). I believe we do that to the very fullest extent when Christ’s LIFE is expressed in and through us, and God’s image is seen in the clearest way through us on earth (Genesis 1:26-28; Gal. 2:20; I John 4:12-18).

A musical score written by a master like Bach or Beethoven or Mozart does not stifle or repress the capabilities and potentialities of the musical instrument – an expertly written score actually guides the instrument in the way of TRUEST FREEDOM! Likewise, the commands and exhortations of the scriptures, when we walk in them in dependence upon the Spirit of Christ, do not hinder or repress me or put me in bondage – they truly guide and empower me to EXPERIENCE TRUE FREEDOM TO THE FULLEST DEGREE!

I John 5:3 WHY ARE HIS COMMANDS “NOT GRIEVOUS?”

1. This obedience not to earn acceptance with God – My position is absolutely secure through grace

To consider myself “on probation,” constantly concerned with my performance ***IS*** burdensome, but under grace, my chief focus is not on my performance, but on the SOURCE; Eph. 1:6; Romans 5:1-2; John 15:1-11

In fact, it is absolutely key to the Christian life to be established in my acceptance! KNOWING I AM PERFECTLY “ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED” FREES ME UP TO PUT MY FOCUS ON HIM!!! II Cor. 3:18; Hebrews 12:1-2

1. This obedience is not motivated from slavish fear of wrath, but born from devotion and love – born out of believing & enjoying His LOVE for me! I John 4:14; Luke 7:36-47; Ro. 8:14-15;
* ***OBEDIENCE FLOWS FROM FELLOWSHIP*** – it is the free and natural response of TRUE LIFE (I John 2:5-6)!
1. This obedience is not something that grates against my own true desires, but the new LIFE (HIS LIFE) in me by nature desires to do the very things He commands!
* I obey now NOT to become something I am not (burdensome), but to REVEAL who I already am by new birth.
* His commands = all that is BEST for me – what brings me greatest fulfillment/maximum joy! = Promises of what He will do in and through me as I abide in Him = Authority to live out my New Creation Life!

[All the commands/exhortations of NT are perfectly in line w/ New Creation life in me and are the very things my new nature inwardly *LONGS* to do – Eph. 4:24 “Put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” Gal. 6:15-16; II Cor. 5:17]

1. This obedience will not exasperate me as something unreachable or impossible, because it is not carried out in my own strength, but HIS – it is actually HIM obeying THROUGH ME. Zechariah 4:6; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:13, 4:13; I Thess. 5:24

It is “Divine Love,” and it is da “**VINE**” LOVE (John 14:10; 15:4-5) – abide in the VINE and **HE** will bring forth much fruit – the LIFE of the **VINE** coursing thru me!

"All of the Lord's commands to us are according to the new nature we already have. He is our life, ***and all His words are the expression of that life***. Therefore, when His words are given to us, they only give us the authority to do what our new nature loves to do*!” – Miles J. Stanford*

“If you are born again, your old Adam-life has been put to death and replaced with Christ’s very life. Does the New Testament give you commands to change or to reveal what you are? ***To reveal, of course! You are commanded to be holy because you ARE holy!!!*** Why? Christ’s life in you is holy. In all of Paul’s letters, he spends the first half telling believers who they are ***before*** he begins to tell them what to do! If we know who we are, then the doing is natural.

“Do you work to ***get*** God’s acceptance or work ***because you are accepted?*** Do you read your Bible and pray to get God near to you or because He IS near to you? Are you working ***to be*** holy, or working ***because you ARE holy?*** As you can see, it is the difference between life and death in the Christian experience!”

– Michael Wells, *“Sidetracked in the Wilderness”*

 “Now, keeping the Father’s commandments was a principle of “that eternal life” (I John 1:1-2) – obedience *in love and divine delight.* “That the world may know that I *love* the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do.” This is the exact opposite of what is termed legal obedience, so that you see at once that this obedience in Him is *the expression of the eternal life.* But this is the obedience to which we are sanctified (separated) – sanctified “unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” (I Pet. i.), to obey in the way He obeyed.”

 – R. Evans, *Readings and Meditations on the First Epistle of John*

“'Not I, but Christ.’ The Lord Jesus does not ask that we should work for Him, but He intends to work through us. There is all the difference in the world between the two. In the one I plan and then ask His blessing upon it; in the other He plans and lets me into the secret of His glorious purpose. The one ends in futility and disappointment; the other in life, progress and joy.

“In the one I slave and work worthily for Him, and constantly feel the barrenness of a busy life; in the other I *let His life flow through me* in all His glorious effortlessness, and rest in the assurance that the Lord Jesus at work cannot fail. The one is a life of endeavor, always being keyed up to do something greater; the other a life of faith always looking to the Lord Jesus to reveal the next step and then give the enablement to carry it out.”

– H. G.

"Born-again Christians today are responsible to keep the commandments left to us by our Lord Jesus Christ and by His apostles. This new array of commands is quite distinct from the Mosaic economy and should never be confused with it. Though we are not under the law or Moses in any sense, we can still say with Paul that we are "under the law toward Christ” (I Cor. 9:21). But under the New Covenant this law is inscribed on our hearts (Heb. 8:10) and *every act of obedience is the natural outworking of what we are inwardly.* That is why James can call it "the law of liberty" because it is the free expression of what we are by nature as God's holiness (Eph. 4:24). Were it not for the "counter-programming" of sin that dwells in our flesh, obedience would be spontaneous for all of God's children (Romans 7:21-25).

Obviously I m not saying that obedience to the New Covenant law is *inevitable.* But I am saying that it is *natural.* Of course, there is a significant difference between something that is inevitable and something that is natural. Neither am I saying that obedience to the New Covenant law of liberty is always easy. It is not. Romans 7shows that!

On the other band, through the personal ministry and help of the Holy Spirit the Christian Me can be so lived that we can realize the truth of the Lord's words, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matt. 11:30). Our victory can be such that we can keep God's commandments out of love for Him, so that John states: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." (I John 5:3). – Zane Hodges, JOTGES Vol. 9, Autumn 1996

*(NOTE: While I do not agree with Mr. Hodges’ application of the New Covenant to the Church saint, I DO applaud his teaching that obedience to Christ’s commands is simply “the natural outworking of* ***what we are inwardly****!” That is why his statements are included here).*

“The thrust of Paul’s Epistles is to first show the believer what God has done in His grace. The exhortations and commands are generally found toward the end of the Epistles and are based upon what God has graciously done. The believer is to count on the facts of what God has done and by faith live accordingly. The emphasis is **NOT** “do and thou shalt be blessed” (the legal formula) but it is this: “You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3) … therefore walk accordingly (Eph. 4:1).” How does God’s grace teach us to live (compare Titus 2:11-12)? One of many examples that could be cited is Ephesians 5:8—“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”

 “First Paul tells the Ephesians WHO THEY ARE (by the grace of God, not because of their keeping of the law), and then he tells them HOW TO WALK!! “Since you are children of light, walk as children of light! BE WHAT YOU ARE! By faith, count on the fact of who you are and walk accordingly! See yourself in the Lord Jesus Christ.” The great exhortation is that we should walk as new creatures (Gal. 6:15-16) because that is WHO WE ARE! God’s peace and victory will be upon all those who walk according to this NEW CREATURE RULE (Gal 6:16), based upon the FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS (Gal. 6:14)!”

 – Pastor George Zeller, *The Believer’s Rule of Life, p. 24*

 “To be ‘inlawed to Christ’ is to be under the teachings of grace as a rule of life. These teachings include the ‘commandments’ of Christ which are addressed to Christians as such in the upper room, and these ‘commandments’ of Christ have been taken up, enlarged, and advanced, under the guidance of the Spirit in the book of the Acts and the Epistles of the New Testament. They constitute a separate and sufficient rule of life for the believer which is divinely adapted to his position in grace, and these great governing principles of grace are addressed to the believer alone, and not to the Christ rejecting world.”

 – Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Grace: The Glorious Theme*, p. 101

 “If the manner of life under grace is *superhuman,* so, also, the provided enablement is *supernatural,* and is as limitless as the infinite power of God. Since God has proposed a humanly impossible manner of life, He has, in full consistency, provided the Spirit who giveth life. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that, since God has proposed the impossible rule of life and provided the sufficient Spirit, the believer’s responsibility is thereby changed from being a *struggle* of the flesh to being a *reliance* on the Spirit. Grace thus introduces a new problem for the believer’s life which is wholly foreign to every aspect of the law. It is the problem of the adjustment of the heart to the holy presence of the Spirit, and of maintaining the unbroken attitude of dependence on the Spirit. The new principle of achievement consists in getting things accomplished in the believer’s daily life and service by trusting in the power of Another, rather than by trusting the energy of the flesh.

 “Experimentally, the believer, when empowered by the Spirit, will be conscious only of the exercise of his own faculties. The Spirit does not disclose His presence directly; His ministry is to reveal and glorify Christ. His presence will be evidenced, however, by the victory that is wrought, which victory could be wrought only by the Spirit.” *Grace*, p. 208

 “Divine grace, inwrought and imparted by the indwelling Spirit, results in a manifestation of the very graciousness of God in and through the heart of the believer. It is in no sense an *imitation* of God’s graciousness; it is a *reproduction* by the indwelling Spirit of that graciousness in the life and service of the believer. This truth is one of the most extensive doctrines of the New Testament (Romans 12:3-6; 15:15; 1 Cor. 1:4; 3:10; 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; 4:15; 6:1-3; 8:1, 6, 7, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9; Gal 2:9; Eph. 3:2-8; 4:7, 29; Phil 1:7; Col. 3:16; 4:6; 2 Thes. 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 4:16; 12:15; Jas. 4:6, and 2 Pet. 3:18).” *Grace*, p. 214

 “Christianity is a living and divine reality. It is not a set of doctrines, however true, a system of ordinances, however imposing; a number of rules and regulations, however important. Christianity is far more than any or all of these things. *It is a living, breathing, speaking, active, powerful reality* – something to be seen in the every day life – something to be felt in the scenes of personal, domestic history, from hour to hour – something formative and influential – a divine and heavenly power introduced into the scenes and circumstances through which we have to move, as men, women, and children, from Sunday morning to Saturday night.

“*Christianity is the life of Christ communicated to the believer – dwelling in him and flowing out from him*, in the ten thousand little details which go to make up our daily practical life. It has nothing ascetic or sanctimonious about it. It is genial, pure, elevated, holy, divine. Such is Christianity. It is Christ dwelling in the believer, and reproduced, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the believer’s daily practical career.”

– C. H. Mackintosh