

SIN, SINNER, AND ECCLESIASTICISM

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1 Why do Christian Scientists say God and His idea
are the only realities, and then insist on the need
3 of healing sickness and sin? Because Christian Science
heals sin as it heals sickness, by establishing the recogni-
tion that God *is All*, and there is none beside Him, — that
6 all is good, and there is in reality no evil, neither sickness
nor sin. We attack the sinner's belief in the pleasure of
sin, *alias* the reality of sin, which makes him a sinner, in
9 order to destroy this belief and save him from sin; and
we attack the belief of the sick in the reality of sickness,
in order to heal them. When we deny the authority of
12 sin, we begin to sap it; for this denunciation must precede
its destruction.

God is good, hence goodness is something, for it rep-
15 represents God, the Life of man. Its opposite, nothing,
named *evil*, is nothing but a conspiracy against man's
Life and goodness. Do you not feel bound to expose this
18 conspiracy, and so to save man from it? Whosoever
covers iniquity becomes accessory to it. Sin, as a claim,
is more dangerous than sickness, more subtle, more diffi-
21 cult to heal.

St. Augustine once said, "The devil is but the ape of
God." Sin is worse than sickness; but recollect that it
24 encourages sin to say, "There is no sin," and leave the
subject there.

1 Sin ultimates in sinner, and in this sense they are one.
2 You cannot separate sin from the sinner, nor the sinner
3 from his sin. The sin is the sinner, and *vice versa*, for
4 such is the unity of evil; and together both sinner and sin
5 will be destroyed by the supremacy of good. This, how-
6 ever, does not annihilate man, for to efface sin, *alias* the
7 sinner, brings to light, makes apparent, the real man,
8 even God's "image and likeness." Need it be said that
9 any opposite theory is heterodox to divine Science, which
10 teaches that good is equally *one* and *all*, even as the oppo-
11 site claim of evil is one.

12 In Christian Science the fact is made obvious that the
13 sinner and the sin are alike simply nothingness; and this
14 view is supported by the Scripture, where the Psalmist
15 saith: "He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they
16 shall never see light. Man that is in honor, and under-
17 standeth not, is like the beasts that perish." God's ways
18 and works and thoughts have never changed, either in
19 Principle or practice.

20 Since there is in belief an illusion termed sin, which
21 must be met and mastered, we classify sin, sickness, and
22 death as illusions. They are supposititious claims of
23 error; and error being a false claim, they are no claims
24 at all. It is scientific to abide in conscious harmony, in
25 health-giving, deathless Truth and Love. To do this,
26 mortals must first open their eyes to all the illusive forms,
27 methods, and subtlety of error, in order that the illusion,
28 error, may be destroyed; if this is not done, mortals will
29 become the victims of error.

30 If evangelical churches refuse fellowship with the

1 Church of Christ, Scientist, or with Christian Science,
they must rest their opinions of Truth and Love on
3 the evidences of the physical senses, rather than on
the teaching and practice of Jesus, or the works of the
Spirit.

6 Ritualism and dogma lead to self-righteousness and
bigotry, which freeze out the spiritual element. Pharis-
aism killeth; Spirit giveth Life. The odors of persecution,
9 tobacco, and alcohol are not the sweet-smelling savor of
Truth and Love. Feasting the senses, gratification of
appetite and passion, have no warrant in the gospel or
12 the Decalogue. Mortals must take up the cross if they
would follow Christ, and worship the Father "in spirit
and in truth."

15 The Jewish religion was not spiritual; hence Jesus
denounced it. If the religion of to-day is constituted of
such elements as of old ruled Christ out of the synagogues,
18 it will continue to avoid whatever follows the example of
our Lord and prefers Christ to creed. Christian Science
is the pure evangelic truth. It accords with the trend and
21 tenor of Christ's teaching and example, while it demon-
strates the power of Christ as taught in the four Gospels.
Truth, casting out evils and healing the sick; Love, ful-
24 filling the law and keeping man unspotted from the world,
— these practical manifestations of Christianity constitute
the only evangelism, and they need no creed.

27 As well expect to determine, without a telescope, the
magnitude and distance of the stars, as to expect to obtain
health, harmony, and holiness through an unspiritual and
30 unhealing religion. Christianity reveals God as ever-

- 1 present Truth and Love, to be utilized in healing the sick,
in casting out error, in raising the dead.
- 3 Christian Science gives vitality to religion, which is no
longer buried in materiality. It raises men from a material
sense into the spiritual understanding and scientific demon-
- 6 stration of God.