

The Sinlessness of Jesus Christ

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There is still another argument that establishes the certainty of the perfect holiness of Jesus beyond the possibility of a reasonable doubt. The moral effects produced upon mankind by Christianity are such that the sinlessness of Jesus is their necessary condition or originating cause.

In other words, it can be shown that there have been, since the appearance of Christ on earth, actual manifestations, which can be explained rationally only on one assumption; namely, that the Author of Christianity was a being of sinless holiness; and that, if we refuse to make this assumption, these manifestations must remain entirely inexplicable.

An unbiased investigation will place beyond a doubt the following facts: that Christianity produced in individual believers—that is, in those who were deservedly so called a rich supply of virtues; and that these were, partly, virtues of which men had previously no conception whatever, or, at all events, no idea, so high and pure as Christianity imparts. Such virtues are humility, meekness, and the self-denial of compassionate love.

Nor has Christianity exercised a less salutary moral influence upon the common relations of human life. In marriage and the family, in the condition of civil and political life, in the relation of ranks, castes, and nations to one another, and, in a word, in the whole condition of the race, it has laid the foundation of a state of society essentially different from what it was before.

All these moral manifestations disclose to us the grand truth, that Christianity has produced something new in the moral world, that the individual character which is molded by its influence, and also the humanity which it forms, is a new moral creation. This the apostle Paul expresses in a most forcible manner, when he says: “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.”

(The Gospel Records: Their Genuineness, Authentication, Historical Verity, and Inspiration... by William Nast, Cincinnati: Cranston and Stowe, 1866, ebook, 279-280, Paragraph Structure Modified)