

The Lord's Day Morning

**December 3, 1944**

**"The Spirit of Christ"**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

"Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His." – Romans 8:9 (Refer to "The World's Great Sermons" – page 229)

Introduction

1. We speak often of belief in salvation by regeneration and reject doctrine of salvation by sincerity or good works.
  - a. But when we speak of regeneration we think of it as being something very real and true happening to a man.
  - b. Many take this doctrine far too lightly and claim to have been regenerated or born again when in truth they show no evidence of a change of life or character. While we all know that if a man's nothing e.g. his heart is changed it must produce a change in his whole spirit and attitude toward life.
  - c. Paul would emphasize regeneration, salvation by faith, but he would also emphasize that if a man has been born again, something has happened to him.
  - d. We have this emphasis in the text, Romans 8:9
2. But we may well ask what does Paul mean by the Spirit of Christ?
  - a. We cannot look at all the things which are meant but let us look at some of them.

I. Spirit of Christ was passionate purity

1. Christ had a mind of purity
2. How does it compare with some of the proclaimed ideas of self-expression we hear today?
  - a. Surely it is more self-indulgence
  - b. Or self is not a self worthy of expression

II. Spirit of loyalty to truth

1. We hear much today belittling literalism in interpreting Scripture and traditionalism in our attitudes toward the church.
  - a. I am sure we are sometimes too bound by traditionalism
    1. I love the Presbyterian church and its traditions and may be far too prone to be loyal to them.
    2. On the other hand, we must stop and separate what appeals to us a mere traditionalism and what is founded on truth.
2. Some great truths
  - a. God – In The Apostle group standing before statue to go into temple would be killed before would allow to move to temple.
  - b. Christ

- c. Mankind
- d. Church – true to Church – called John Kincaid – said would do best to represent congregation.
- 3. We must not surrender these truths because people deny them
  - a. May be unpopular
  - b. May be branded as traditionalists or literals, but must stand firm
- 4. Specifically about Church union

### III. Spirit of Christ was a broad human sympathy

- 1. See it in His life
- 2. Compare our own lives
  - a. Poor
  - b. Needy
  - c. Racial relations
  - d. Heathen
    - 1. Our interest in them

### IV. Spirit of Self-sacrifice

- 1. Philippians 2
- 2. From “The World’s Great Sermons” – Frost – page 232

“Nothing reveals the spirit of Christ as does the cross. And by the cross is meant much more than that instrument of wood on which Jesus died. The cross of Christ was set in the sharpest possible contrast with the spirit of Roman civilization. Two things were characteristic of Roman civilization in the days of Jesus and Paul – the one was love of power, and the other, love of pleasure.

Into that pagan world came Jesus with his cross; and then everything began to change. Heine dreamed that he was at a supper of the gods; heavenly wine was brought, and they all drank it and lived at ease. But suddenly in the midst of the feast the door flew open, and in came a wan figure staggering under the weight of a great cross, which he threw down upon the banquet table. Then the faces of the gods turned pale, and one by one they vanished away. Into that Roman civilization came Jesus with His cross. In the presence of it, false ideals faded and false gods vanished out of sight. This principle of the cross marks the essential difference between Christianity and all pagan ethics, ancient or recent.

### Conclusion

- 1. What has our faith in Christ produced in our lives?
  - a. Ask yourself concerning your own life, not regarding mine or some other life.
- 2. Is that Spirit of Christ growing in us?