

## Unity Church.

Subject,—"What Think Ye of Man." For nearly two thousand years we have been trying to answer the question,—"What think ye of Christ?" In the process of this inquiry we have answered it in all sorts of ~~xxxxx~~ ways. We have declared that he was very God of very God. We have declared that he was a perfect man, a complete a full revelation of the possibilities of human nature, the fullness of the divine spirit manifest in live, the link which bridges the chasm between the human and the divine, the finite and the infinite. We have even gone to the trouble of expending time and effort to demonstrate that therexxxxx never was any such person, At the presnt time there is developing a school of theologians in Europe who are interested in preserving the so-called othodox interpretation of Christ. In the interest of this purpose they have declared that Christ never lived. That Christianity developed around a ~~xxxx~~ Christ Myth. This position, somewhat akin to the one that Straus developed nearly a hundred years ago, is now being pushed forward as the only alternative to accepting as final what has been the position of modern thought x



people for many decades now. Say these people, "Either Christ was simply a muth or a man?" Very good logic sats the man of modern thought. We quite agree with you. But we are not willing to accede to your contention that he is a Myth because that conserves your preconceived notions. We are glad, however, to take the other end of the dilemma, and rest content with the simple truth that Jesus Chrsit was a man.

Having then come to this conclusion, not as a personal opinion but as the logical result of historic developement, we ~~askem~~ are asking ourselves to-day, "What is man?" What are his acheivments? what are his limitations? What are his possibilities? To these questions we are ~~gink~~ giving in our modern world some very definite answers. If we trace the answers back into history we shall find that we are giving to man just about the same characteristics which people in the past have ascribed to Christ. We a democratizing the Christ Life.

Fisrt of all is the idea that Christ was very God of very God. He was the word made flesh. Such we say of man. Man is very God of very God, the word made flesh. The very inclusive



qualities, the qualities of good and evil, of achievement and limitation, are qualities of a indwelling God . In the concrete man that we meet on the street, whatever may be his developement, we meet God. Not in Christ alone , but in ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ all men and women has the word become flesh and does it dwell among us. We are all very God of Very God.

Again in the matter of life and experience we are Christs. Throught the experiences of life, in joy and sorrow in defeat and success, we are translating to each other the living principles of life. The life we live , with all its complex relations, its tragedies, and glories, its common experiences and common x values are just as much the exepriences of suffering Christs as the life of Jesus. The white slave, suffering the supreme degradation of womanhood, as a price for our beastly limitations ; the poorly-fed child of the slums, the over-fed child of wealth, the degraded drunkard, the vanquished vagrant, the men and women struggling against ~~xxxxxx~~ poverty, are the vacarious sacrifices of our limitations and wickedness. They bear the burdens that we cast upon them. They are God on the cross, and in the x



mire. By their pain we are healed, and in process like these we achieve the capacity to understand, and to measure the values of life. We are all damned for our transgressions. In other words man, we say is divine and essentially good. He has to learn in the process of experience what values of life are worth while, and at what price those values may be attained. Those values we must attain together through effort in common.

Again we have democratized the suffering and the beauty of Christ life. That which was in Jesus is now in us.

Finally we are learning in this process that the life which is worth while, which satisfies, which rounds out into complete and enriched old age, which is the basis for a faith in the eternal value of human personality, is the life which loses itself that it may find itself. The life that goes through the drama of temptation, and withstands the allurements of wealth, power, and religious domination, and follows the fleeting vision of truth, justice, and mercy. Not what we have exhorts us, not what do exhorts, but what, through the varied experiences of success and failure, we would do, and what we strive to do, what we fight for exhorts. Seeking first the kingdom of heaven to use an



old phrase, is not pious ranting, but plain hard cold life fact  
The measure of our suffering, not as individuals alone, but  
as races and nations, is the measure of our failure to meet this  
plain law of life. It is not the ultimatum of men, <sup>but</sup> ~~of~~ of the  
universe, that we are dealing with. What is man? He is a being  
of infinite worth whose experiences in life open to him the cham-  
ber of life's mysteries, and reveals the secrets of life's worth.