

CHAPTER XV

ARTICLE XIV.—*Of the Law of God.*—We believe that the moral law of God, summarized in the Ten Commandments, testified to by the prophets and unfolded in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, stands forever in truth and equity, and is not made void by faith, but on the contrary is established thereby. We believe that God requires of every man to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God; and that only through this harmony with the will of God shall be fulfilled that brotherhood of man wherein the Kingdom of God is to be made manifest.

The charge of antinomianism has been brought against evangelical religion from the days of the Apostle Paul downwards. He himself made short work of these charges. Read Romans 3: 31; and 6: 1, 2. This article does little more than echo the Apostle's indignant denial of so base a charge. *First*, it states what is meant in Christianity by the law of God. It is the whole will of God regarding the moral life of man. The Law, thus understood, is not contained in a code book. It is to be sought in the revelation of God's holy will, contained in the Old Testament, summarized in the "Ten Words," and expounded in the ethical monotheism of the Prophets. It is to be found, in its supreme expression, in the character, and example, as well as in the ethical teaching of Jesus. This holy law of God is not made void by faith. On the contrary, only faith, directed to Jesus Christ, Redeemer and Lord, can appreciate the glory of the Law, and bind it on

the human conscience as a perpetual obligation. *Second*, the article seeks to impress on the mind of the reader the imperative of the law, by quoting a well-known passage, which sums up the whole matter as set forth in the Old Testament. The duty of man as a moral agent is to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. (By what must surely have been an oversight, the article does not refer to our Lord's summary of the law, as contained in Love, love to God, and to our neighbor. Nor does it quote, what here would have been most relevant, Paul's aphorism, "love is the fulfilling of the Law.") *Third*, the article notes the issue of such fulfilling of the Law. By it, the Kingdom of God comes in power, that Kingdom, which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, whose special manifestation will be the prevalence of the spirit of love, and the organizing of humanity into a true brotherhood. N.B.—While the Christian religion honors the law of God, and is ethical through and through, it is not a legal religion, nor is it a mere system of ethics. It is to its core a religion of redemption. It sees in Jesus Christ the revelation of the highest moral values, and the warrant of their reality and triumph. It directs sinful men to the Saviour, that, through faith in Him, guilt may be removed, failures amended, a new life begun of moral endeavor, which, through God's grace, will be crowned with victory.