

§ xiii Let no one be so bold as to mock God by supposing that they are justified and accepted in the sight of God by virtue of Christ's death and sufferings, while they remain unsanctified and unjustified in their own hearts and polluted in their sins; let them beware lest their hope turn out to be that of the hypocrite, which perishes.¹ Also, let no one foolishly imagine that they can, by their own works, or by the performance of any ceremonies or traditions, or by giving gold or money, or by afflicting their bodies in will-worship and voluntary humility, or by foolishly striving to conform their way to the outward letter of the law — let no one flatter themselves that by such means they acquire merit before God, or make him their debtor, or that any human beings have power to make such things effective for their justification; let them beware lest they turn out to be foolish boasters and complete strangers to Christ and his righteousness. Blessed forever are those who, after having seen that all their own endeavors and performances are empty and fruitless, having seen their own emptiness and the emptiness of their vain hopes, faith, and confidence while they remained inwardly pricked, pursued, and condemned by *God's Holy Witness* in their hearts — blessed are those who, having paid attention to that witness and having allowed his grace to work in them, have become changed and *renewed in the spirit of their minds*,² *passed from death to life*,³ and know *Jesus* arisen in them, *working both the will and the deed*. Such people have *put on the Lord*

¹ Job 8:13 RB

² Romans 12:2

³ John 5:24

*Jesus Christ*⁴ and are clothed with him and partake of his righteousness and nature; they can draw near to the Lord boldly, and know their acceptance *in* and *by* him. In them, and in all those who dwell in him, the *Father is well pleased*.⁵

Source: Robert Barclay, *Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, Proposition VII § xiii (Glenside PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 2002) pp. 204-205; and Roberti Barclaii, *Teologiae verè Christianae apologia*, facsimile (Amsterdam: Jacob Claus, 1676) pp. 151-152.

⁴ Romans 13:14

⁵ Mark 1:11