

§ i. Human duty towards God chiefly falls in these two general categories: 1) a holy conformity to the pure Law and Light of God, which leads us to abandon evil and to practice the perpetual moral precepts of righteousness and fairness; 2) rendering to God the reverence, honor and adoration that he requires and demands of us, which falls under the concept of worship. We have already discussed the first, and also the different conditions* of Christians and the different measures of grace given to everyone, according to which they have their different offices in the body of Christ, which is the Church. Now I will speak about worship, about those acts, whether private or public, general or specific, by which man renders to God the part of his duty which relates directly to God. “Obedience is better than sacrifice”¹ and no sacrifice is acceptable unless it is done according to the will of the one to whom it is offered. But human beings find it easier to sacrifice according to their own wills rather than to obey God’s will, and they have heaped up sacrifices without obedience, thinking they can deceive God as they do each other. They give God a show of reverence, honor and worship while inwardly they are estranged and alienated from his holy and righteous life, and are completely unfamiliar with the pure breathings of his Spirit. Only by that inspiration can acceptable sacrifice and worship be offered.

¹ See Hosea 6:6

Source: Robert Barclay, *Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, Proposition XI § i (Glenside PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 2002) pp. 290-291; and Roberti Barclaii, *Teologiae verè Christianae apologia*, facsimile (Amsterdam: Jacob Claus, 1676) p. 221.