

## Sunday School Lesson

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the doctrines of men that the individual economic effort is the sole key to the kingdom of material well-being.

We worship a Father of all races, and yet we teach the commandments of men — keep other races in their place and continue inferior education, housing, and job opportunities for them. And the tragedy is that we are consciously sincere on these matters.

At Oxford John Wesley joined a small covenant group

of students. So sincere was their religious practice of going to church, praying, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and tutoring the young that, in derision, they were nicknamed the "Holy Club." John Wesley had the cleanest outside of the cup you could ask for. Later he went to Georgia as a missionary to the Indians.

Twenty years after student days at Oxford Wesley preached from the university pulpit. He said that day that he had been almost but not altogether a Christian. He insisted that he had had the form without the

inner power of godliness. Even heathens live by moral rules, he said, with some regard for justice and truth.

### Being Almost Christian

The almost Christian has the form of godliness — the outside of a Christian in every respect. He does nothing the gospel forbids. He keeps all the commandments. He does good at every opportunity. He is found in the house of God on every occasion not for show but with the deepest sincerity.

He leads his family in daily devotions and sets aside times daily for private prayer to God.

In doing good, in abstaining from evil, in attending to worship, prayer, Scripture, and the Holy Sacrament he seeks to serve God, to do his will. But with all this he is still not altogether a Christian.

### Being Altogether Christian

What is implied in being altogether a Christian? What does it mean to have the inward substance as well as the outward shell — to have the power as well as the form of godliness?

Being altogether Christian means that you love God with your whole heart, mind, soul,

and strength — that you find your delight, your goal, your loyalty in the Lord.

To be altogether a Christian means that you love your neighbor as yourself. Who is my neighbor? Every man in the world. We are to love our neighbor as Christ has loved us — with patience and kindness, without envy, never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, nor quick to take offense.

Being altogether a Christian implies the basis of it all, even faith. For in spite of our hypoc-

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