

Many nations have believed in, and worshipped a plurality of deities; but I do not believe they were therefore all wicked. Idolatry indeed is wickedness; but it is the thing, not the name, which is so. Real idolatry is to pay that adoration to a creature, which is known to be due only to the true God.

He who professeth to believe one Almighty Creator, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and is yet more intent on the honours, profits and friendships of the world, than he is in singleness of heart to stand faithful to the christian religion, is in the channel of idolatry; while the Gentile, who, under some mistaken opinions, is notwithstanding established in the true principle of virtue, and humbly adores an almighty power, may be of that number who fear God, and work righteousness.

I believe the bishop of Rome assumes a power, that does not belong to any officer in the church of Christ; and if I should knowingly do any thing, tending to strengthen him in that capacity, it would be great iniquity. There are many thousands of people, who by their profession acknowledge him to be the representative of Jesus Christ on earth; and to say that none of them are upright in heart, would be contrary to my sentiments.

Men who sincerely apply their minds to true virtue, and find an inward support from above, by which all vicious inclinations are made subject; that they love God sincerely, and prefer the real good of mankind universally to their  
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