

Church History

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read that the one that had enmity against his brother is as guilty before the Lord as the one that actually killed his brother. Of course the point there is that most of us are so held by our fear of punishment, ~~that~~^{by} our fear of the dislike of other people, by the sanctions that are round about us that we never carry out the evil impulses that come into our hearts. If one of us were placed in a situation where absolute power was in our hands and whatever we did people would flatter us, or in a place where our - 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ - had been ruthlessly to carry out their will - who can guarantee that we would not sometimes give into the brutal impulses that come into ~~our hearts~~ every individual. I often think of ~~how~~ one time when I was in my late teens I was in California climbing a mountain with a group of people and (I think there were about 30 in the group going up the trail at Yosemite) I pushed ahead vigorously and steadily and I was ahead of all the group. Then there was a very little fellow about half as big as I was who came up behind me and when I wasn't looking, he shoved himself in front of me and for the last 15 min. or so on a very narrow place where you couldn't pass anyone, he walked at the rate he could go, right straight ahead of me and I couldn't get past him properly. Having put in considerable effort with the expectation of being the first one to the top, and feeling myself cheated out of this, I must say the impulses that came over me to grasp that fellow by the neck and hurl him over the side of the cliff, were something that I don't like to contemplate. It would have been very very easy to do, and in my - 11 - there was a realization of what it would mean, what people would think of me, what the result would be, and all logic of course came flooding into my mind, and made it quite easy to resist the impulse. But, I am sure that everybody has an impulse like that sometime in his life and the people who are placed in positions where they don't have the restraints that ordinary people have to hold them back, those people may be led into acts which on the part of the rest of us are merely impulses ^{to} which we never give way.