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A Linconian Christian.

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Abraham Lincoln

—The grandest character in word and work and the gentlest memory (excepting the Savior) of all our world.

—N. Y. Christian Advocate

—The one supreme human being since the man of Calvary

—President Harding

A Linconian Christian

IS one who purposes, by Divine aid, to love God supremely and his neighbor as himself, Realizing that it is impossible to so love God without recognizing Jesus as the Christ and his personal savior, and as regarding the sacraments, to emphasize the thing symbolized, ignoring the perpetuation of the symbol.

This was the stand taken by Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln believed in church membership, and of the atonement he said "All that was lost by the transgression of Adam was made good by the atonement; all that was lost by the fall was made good by the sacrifice."

That he was not a church member was not his fault. He said: "I have never united myself with any church because I have found difficulty in giving my assent, without mental reservation to the long, complicated statements of Christian doctrine which characterize their articles of belief and confession of faith. When ever any Church will inscribe over its altars, as its sole qualification for membership, the Savior's condensed statement of the substance of both Law and Gospel. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and thy neighbor as thyself. That Church I will join with all my heart and all my mind.

That Lincoln did not belong to any special church was providential; for no one can say that Lincoln was a Presbyterian, a Methodist, a Baptist or a member of any other denomination. Though not a Church member he was regular in his attendance at church; and while President of this war torn Country, when its people demanded every minute of his time, he always found time to attend the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, not only the two services on Sunday, but also the Wednesday night prayer meeting.

One of the chief obstacles to Lincoln's joining the church, was their contending theories regarding sacramental baptism.

To Illustrate

Rev. A. founds a church teaching that John baptized *with* water; thus interpreting Mark 16-16 to read, "He that believeth and is *sprinkled* shall be saved." This is Catholic and Presbyterian doctrine.

Rev. B. founds a church, teaching that John baptized *in* water; Thus interpreting Mark 16-16 to read, "He that believeth and is *immersed* shall be saved." This is Mormon and Campbellite doctrine.

Rev. C. founds a church, teaching that every act or emotion prompted by the spirit of God (conversion included) is a baptism. Thus interpreting Mark 16-16 to read, "He that believeth and is *converted shall be saved.*" This is Quaker and Linconian doctrine.

Mr. Preacher would you receive into full church membership a Linconian Christian?

I am not in favor of founding another church, but would encourage every Linconian Christian to join some church that would honor such a Christian.

The term Linconian Christian developed from the name of a community sunday school located at the Lincoln Park Auto Camp, Los Angeles, and was called the Linconian Community Sunday School.

E. F. RUDEEN

(1925)