



Followers of Christianity vs. Followers of Christ

It is of vital importance to understand the difference. It is important with regard to salvation as well as discovering how to bring the influence of peace into the world on a day-to-day, moment-to-moment basis.

Although critical to salvation and atonement, it is also important to understand that salvation is not escape from eternal punishment, but is rediscovering what you are, and thereby reaping the inheritance of that inner knowledge. (See *Proverbs 4:7*) Knowing the truth of this sets one free forever...and thus "is" salvation. Consider also the story of the prodigal son. (See *Luke 15:11-32*)

If we who have called ourselves Christians will not look at the millennia of strife and pain caused by following a banner called Christianity, it is to our detriment. The things alleged to have been taught by the one believed to be the focus of Christianity either did not teach the things people have taught and done using that name, or he was very confused. Without going into a lengthy examination of the history of Christianity and how it influences the world, its governments and its people, I will just say that according to its function and fruit, it is one of the *tree types* alluded to in the following passage. I would suggest that if the type of tree indicated (*an evil tree with evil fruit*) describes Christianity, then it makes sense that what is written about Jesus is either untrue, inaccurate in the extreme, or often not even what he taught. When one has made a decision to call the Bible the Word of God, such a consideration is not on the table for discussion, for their measuring stick is the Bible, instead of the spirit of love within. Remember that Jesus did not create Christianity, but spoke of a church, a body of Christ (*rather than he alone being Christ*).

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

"Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

– Matthew 7:15-23

Note: There is more that could be said about the above passage, especially the latter part. Although it sounds like a threat-styled warning, that is not what is actually the case for people. The truth (aside from whatever disciples allegedly wrote at some point), has to do with the only law, and why it is the law. The law of love requires that we love one another according to the guiding influence from awareness of reality. Without this, no amount of good works can suffice. Departing simply means that until one becomes aware that they are one with God, they will continue to seem apart from God. No exceptions are or could ever be made, whether one adheres to a religious belief system and practice or not. Partiality and regarding some in a "respector of persons" context is not possible (and no doctrine can make it so, regardless of whether someone said to be divinely authoritative said it is true or not).

1. Love is the only law here in the temporal world, requiring us to love one another. To love one another is to know one another according to awareness of our shared reality as oneness (*or God*).
2. The reason love is the only law in the world, is because it arises into this world as the influence of the one reality we are; which is peace (*or God*).

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

– John 5:39

The above is part of a rather confused passage, said to be Jesus' words. The truth hidden behind this verse is different than interpretations of it by people involved in the Christianity belief system.

1. From a typical temporal understanding, which understanding was applied to things said 2000 years ago, people read this and reason to themselves that reading the scriptures is the path to eternal life. They ignore that it suggests that in the studying of the scriptures, one "thinks they have" eternal life...much different from having eternal life.
2. It is of course taken that "testify of me" refers to Jesus personally. However, the law of love is the law of love, regardless of who reads or does not read, and regardless of who they might testify came from God or not. If one studies the scriptures, there is information given there about God...and it is only God (*our shared reality*) that is eternal life. Such study however, is not the path to eternal life, even though scriptures talk about it. Instead, turning one's awareness toward that reality which is God, and discovering our literal oneness with that infinite reality...IS eternal life. We do not and can never "obtain" eternal life, for that is what we are. But if we are unaware of this because our minds are darkened due to partaking of a judgmental belief system (*which is the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*), we need to rediscover this. Such rediscovery seems like obtaining eternal life; however, it is more like the prodigal son returning home to discover that he did not really lose his inheritance, but simply had come to believe that he was judged as such. That belief had him wandering in the world without proper governance from within, lost and seeming to be separated from his father.

If Christianity (and the pre-Christianity forebears of it), in the hands of Christians and their leaders, brought forth "evil fruit" in the world (and lots of it), this is very much worth looking closely at, and not simply trying to find a rationale to explain it away because we may want to continue to believe that Christianity's message as presented today is truth. Doing a huge volume of good works cannot offset this or cause Christianity to be other than what it is. To keep this brief...regardless of how many people believe in it, practice it, and even have what they believe to be miraculous experiences in Christianity, it is not a path to salvation in this world or any other as evidenced by its fruits. Study it out in your own mind, without books or teachers or consulting your religious belief system. Empty your mind of belief for a moment and open up to that which is in you, and you will eventually discover truth which supersedes anything Christianity can offer or provide.

What Christianity actually provides is a substitute for going within and discovering truth for yourself that is not steeped in beliefs and conditioned mental responses such as those taught in institutions as well as promoted to people in a continual stream of propaganda daily through Christianity's influence in churches and in secular affairs.

When I was 6 or 7 years old, I joined the local Cub Scouts group. It seemed like a fun thing to do. At my first meeting, they had several new recruits, and held an initiation ceremony for them...I was one of them. We were all asked to get down on our knees and repetitively raise our hands up and say the sacred words: "Owa Tagu Siam". After awhile, it sunk in and I got up and left the kneeling group. Over the years, I looked back at that as a minor form of hazing, and it was a slightly negative memory. But today, I realize they had taught me a fundamental truth. Each of us has a mind...with whatever capacity it has. It is up to us to use it and not simply accept whatever is handed out and told to us that we should do. It took me another 23-24 years to realize that the same thing held true for Christianity and all religion or philosophy. I needed to think for myself, and also to open up to the nudging of an inner presence that made itself known at a desperately negative time in my life. As it turned out, it knew more than I did, and more than anyone or any group of people I'd ever known. — *Thanks, Cub Scouts!*



In contrast, there have been a few who have listened within and who have, little by little, let go of their insistence on interpreting everything noticed there in terms of whether or not it fit into currently believed doctrines. The results portend a whole new world that is not afraid to be free and to share and to love.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

– Isaiah 40:31

When it comes to seeking faith, it comes down to this...waiting and watching or listening. In this passage it speaks of this in terms of a religious viewpoint. However, that which is within us, or in our "temple", is Lord of that temple...not as Jesus, but as Christ (*or that "one" who knows the "Father" within*). When Jesus sought and found Christ (*or his reality*) within, he was then called Jesus Christ. If you seek that same oneness and reality within, what is appropriate to consider yourself to be?

Jesus... " thought it not robbery to be equal with God ". *

Seeking faith then, is seeking whatever that inner presence will reveal if we are patient and not trying to obtain "answers" to scriptural or doctrinal questions, and not looking for certain signs, visions or feelings. The presence within all of us (*and therefore shared*) is our reality. Whatever is real in us is that which is in charge of governing our life experience. We are free to refuse this governance, but such refusal results in our not being adequately edified by a continuing in-flow of understanding in the now moment, with which to govern our behaviors and life situations. That

ends up in exacerbated conflict, for our unfed temporal version of intention wanders in a mental wilderness, arbitrarily choosing what to do as situations arise, but not having a reality-generated, vibrant understanding of what is best, for it knows not how to imbue generated appearances with and according to living guidance.

* **Important Note: Jesus as God...What Does that Mean?** A large number of Christians regard Jesus as God, and specifically as separate from the rest of mankind in that elevated capacity. Jesus is not God in that sense...and yet...

- **Jesus' reality is God**, or from a temporal viewpoint, **is Christ or Emmanuel**. Since that reality (*of Godhood*) is shared with and available to all, Jesus is not the only person who manifested in temporal, physical form, and who also is Christ, vis a vis God, by virtue of their reality, origin and foundation. We are all children of that reality we are of, and which reality we together are, eternally one, held in universal embrace.
 - Please note that **Jesus indicated to some of his disciples that they also were able to remit sins** (*John 20:23*). When understood (*by influence from awareness rather than according to what a Bible book author meant*), it becomes clear that this was because they were able to do precisely what Jesus did...go within and become aware of that which showed their equality with God...and then share it with others as guided to do so, effectively remitting the sins of those who heard and thereby became aware. To any who would not receive the disciples' message of salvation and who would not willingly adopt becoming aware of reality (God), their sins **could not** be remitted (*at that time*). This is because **remission of sin was and is through the willingness to become aware. Such awareness brings remittance because it causes the undoing of the mental trap of the ideation of belief in and primary reliance upon judgment and "good and evil". It is in effect returning to God, in which we follow the instruction...**

"Judge not [by ideation of good and evil], that ye be not judged [by it]. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

~~~~~>> (*or in other words, giving is receiving; therefore give good gifts to your children, and not "good and evil"*).

— Matthew 7:1-2

- Note also that **remission of sins by the shedding of blood means the letting go of one's prideful and excessive reliance upon beliefs and temporal evidence, simultaneously returning attention and reliance to reality.**

It is reasonable to ask how I know this.

One day in meditation within, I asked what remission of sins by shedding of blood means. Instantly, the influence of reality evoked formation of the thought as answer to my inquiry. The only "sin" is refusing attention to awareness of our reality...and the only *salvation* as remission of "sin" is letting go of that prideful resistance to the free gift of awareness given to all, and allowing reality's influence to govern in its rightful place. — *Prove anything?* No.

► The religious doctrine that Jesus is our savior is a misunderstanding of what salvation is. Jesus was a messenger, and his message portended salvation as available for all...Jew and gentile. Jesus went further than this however, and set aside the cumbersome and spiritually ineffectual law of Moses (*believed by so many to be inspired and given to Moses directly from God*)\*, and eventually even the writings called the ten commandments...in favor of the truth...

- **Love God** (*who is our shared reality in whom we live, move and have our being*)
- **and your neighbor AS yourself.** (because *in the oneness of their reality, they are*)

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*"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

*" And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

— Mark 12:30-31

Although these seem like two commandments, they are actually *one instruction in wisdom*...for we are one with God and each other. Jesus' prayer gives clear indication that his desire and intent was that we come to realize this oneness (see John 17:20-23).

\* Note: The law of Moses was set aside or superseded by Jesus' message, not because Jesus was special, but because he understood the truth. No matter how "inspired" Moses was, or any other prophet, each one who is inspired writes according to their best understanding at the time; however, truth is truth. The influence of the *spirit of truth* never changes; only our willingness to receive it changes. One who is inspired and who writes wrath and vengeance, or punishment, needs to pause and allow *more inspiration*, for it is only then that they will realize what is meant by the words and insights which flow through their minds as inspiration.

By this we see that, despite millennia of teachings indicating many behavioral laws as necessary to please God and help lead us to salvation, that there is in fact **one law...the law of love** (as the natural expression of peace and not of wrath or sacrifice); **which living reality as law is what we are...and this is God**. We are in and as that reality, and that reality is in and as us (or when characterized in metaphor...we are in Him, and He is in us...one God).

## One Law

**I am the Lord, thy God**  
**...and there is none else**

Exodus 20:1  
Isaiah 45:18

- Without God, there is no us.
- Without us, there is no God.
- Together, we are the balance of reality and illusion  
*...as perceived from the dual nature of this world.*
- **This is the grace of God**  
*...to be free to explore denial  
...and yet be innocent and loved.*
- **For denial's time is not so** and is given  
*...that as we freely discover our reality  
...we willingly return to joy in peace.*
- **Throughout our journey, we are called**  
*...by the love in oneness that we are  
...called to wait by the quiet river  
...and for love to show the way to its shore  
...where peace governs all by that love.*

- The fact that he shared the message of the remission of sin and taught people how to remit sin does not make him a savior or mediator.
- The nature of the one law of God precludes such a hierarchy and position as a mediatory bridge between God and man...for we are already one, and not separate. Jesus' prayer was that we would come to understand this.  
– John 17:20-23
- And that law is peace (*experienced in the world as genuine love*) based in literal oneness as our reality, toward which law we've turned a blind eye, causing the *expression that we are* to appear as an apparent sinful tragedy.
  - But that is only the way the world appears, even though the evidence is staggering and fraught with fatality.
- In a single instant, amidst the storms of this world, the instruction, "peace...be still" works wonders. Become willing to rediscover genuine peace within by pausing and being still, and in that stillness where work has faded, leaving only the will of God...know the truth: **"I" am God**. For indeed, the truth shall set you free.
  - The very self-reference you have used all your life becomes the light at the end of a dark tunnel of refused attention, and which therefore had seemed dark...
  - ...now that self-reference is seen face to face with the light of the noticing of its *"forever presence"*.

- The rediscovery of awareness of your inner reality which seemed lost, now brings joy rising up into the heart, and overflowing into the garden of your temporal experience...for reality is always shared.
- ▶ The religious doctrine that Jesus' death on the cross magically provides appeasement to God, by which means he forgives the world its transgressions is incorrect.

**BEFORE** we can really look at this doctrine and what it means to us...there is a place inside us we must visit. A hint is found when we extract the gold out of the parable about talents.

*"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

*"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey...*

*"But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money..."*

*"Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:*

*"And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*

*"His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed..."*

*"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."*

– Matthew 25:14-15, 18, 24-26 & 29

When we take a cursory look within, we find a thinking mind capable of reasoning, and feelings giving us some degree of indication about at least what we like and do not like. One aspect of looking at these is finding where these balance in beneficial ways, specifically ways which are not direct contributors to increases in conflict...in other words, our conscience. An unfortunate thing is that our thinking and feeling have become exaggerated in some areas and repressed in others, throwing a spin or twisted viewpoint; which gets merged with our expression of conscience. So we have a natural conscience, and we have conditioned overlays to this, creating a skewed conscience. Once this conditioning in one form or another is in place, it can be difficult to tell which conscience is which.

Our day-to-day routines, and the constant repetitive drumming on traditional drums all around us often sets beliefs in place like both blocks and locks in the mind and feelings, causing us to favor unnatural skewed conscience over that which naturally arises in mind. As the years go by, we come to regard the viewpoints of the skewed conscience as normal, as right, as necessary and so on, and we use this as a form into which we regularly pour our thinking, feeling, and choices of behavior.

It is nigh impossible to simply root out cultural, religious and traditional influences so that conscience arises naturally as expression of true will or intention. Decisions in this area sometimes become murky and people find themselves needing to think long and hard to decide what will be the best choices to make, and find it necessary to collaborate with others who are also conditioned day in and day out, in order to weigh opinions and make collective decisions thought to perhaps be better. Unfortunately, pouring more versions of conditioning into the mix just increases diversity of opinion...and thus also increases conflict and confusion, with this being in lieu of directing decisions according to true will (*which is peace*). Unfortunately, we find ourselves guessing and formulating hypotheses.

Since the underpinning of conscience as thought and feeling are fundamental components of the "talent" called conscience, together these arise to assist us in our journey and its inevitable decision-making. There is a third component, a sort of silent partner to the other two; which provides a natural balancing between itself (*reality*) and the seemingly divided components of thoughts and feelings. This also results in a higher degree of balancing between thoughts and feelings themselves. It is appropriate to call this third component a natural guide, for it has every characteristic of functioning as a governor.

In the parable about talents, the man with but one talent (*above*) was afraid, conservative and frugal with his talent. Because of this, his talent did not grow, but lay dormant, allowing waning and atrophy of his capacity to use that talent. The result was that he did not give life (*the third component of awareness of reality*) to his talent so that it could grow, and therefore did not have his talent (*conscience*) in abundance by which to make the best choices. And because he lost track of how to make the best choices from inner abundance, he lost out on the outer abundance he could have had.

In order to go to that place within I spoke of, one must cultivate the third component (*awareness of reality*) and mix it more and more into the other two (*thought and feeling*). So let's try to look at what desires and choices, and resultant behaviors might look like in the case of 1)-skewed conscience with uncultivated awareness of reality, and of 2)-naturally balanced conscience governing the mixture of thought and feeling such that the best choices are made. Best choices result in peace and joy ("*joy*" that is *peace rather than blissful feelings*).

| Skewed Conscience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Balanced Conscience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <p><b>Conditioning's Input:</b> Wrath &amp; Revenge</p> <p><u>Desire</u> toward Thoughts, Feelings and Choices which lead to Wrath and Vengeance, and a more-conflict-bearing environment</p> <p><u>Conflict Assessment:</u> Conflict as <i>excess charge</i> to thoughts and feelings, experienced as fear, hate, tendency toward going "<i>off the rails</i>"</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>Awareness's Input:</b> Peace as Love</p> <p><u>Desire</u> toward Thoughts, Feelings and Choices which lead to Peacefulness and Caring, and a less-conflict-bearing environment</p> <p><u>Conflict Assessment:</u> Reduced Conflict Level as <i>appropriate charge</i> to thoughts and feelings, experienced as desire to be with others and share, tendency toward freedom that isn't trying to fill a void</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Conditioning's Input:</b> Hardline Ideation</p> <p><u>Desire</u> toward Thoughts, Feelings and Choices which Judge Heavily and are less Tolerant, and a more-conflict-bearing environment</p> <p><u>Conflict Assessment:</u> Conflict as <i>excess charge</i> to thoughts and feelings, experienced as self-righteousness, demonizing, criminalizing, excessively praising, subconscious fear of impending judgment toward self</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Awareness's Input:</b> Relaxed Decisions</p> <p><u>Desire</u> toward Thoughts, Feelings and Choices which notice Sameness and Community, and a less-conflict-bearing environment</p> <p><u>Conflict Assessment:</u> Reduced Conflict level as <i>appropriate charge</i> to thoughts and feelings, experienced as trust development, satisfying self-image, and a tendency to be open to collaboration and sharing</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Results of the Above Conditioning</b><br/>Fearful, Violent Traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Fear-Based Traditions as Religions</b><br/>Heavy coercion, enforced morals, laws, punishment, conquests, rationalized abuses of populations of people, sacrifices, and promoted as loving, necessary, and protection from that which is feared</li> <li>○ <b>Religious Traditions as Governments</b><br/>Heavy coercion, synthesized morals, laws, punishment, conquests, rationalized abuses of populations of people, sacrifices, largely based in religious ideation, and promoted as <i>for the people</i>, necessary, and protection from that which is feared</li> <li>○ <b>Religion and Law-Based Parenting</b><br/>Controlling children beyond what is necessary, squashed sexuality in favor of synthesized propriety, teaching and enforcing intra-familial law, punishment, "us or them" family bonding,</li> </ul> | <p><b>Results of Increased Awareness of Reality</b><br/>Confidence and Trust from Within</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Shared Understanding as Integrity</b><br/>Less perceived need for control, lessened conflict, less fearful interactions, relationships with better compatibility, greater freedom to act within shared integrity without fear of repercussions, sexual freedom within sensible limits but not necessarily adhering to traditions out of duty to do so</li> <li>○ <b>Simplified Living</b><br/>Living in ways which are less complex because of lessened conflict due to shared understanding, and therefore complex control structures are not perceived to be needed as much (not necessarily living on bare necessities or without the comforts available)</li> <li>○ <b>Rearing Children as Equals</b><br/>Learning wisdom from children which arises when a freer self-image is held, thus not</li> </ul> |

allegiance and patriotism, and promoted as in the children's interest and contributing to the "greater good"

- o **Tendency Toward Radical Responses**  
Corporal punishment becomes a foundation echoed in overtures of adoration, explosive reactions, and perceived need to control

blocking such wisdom...despite their lack of information in many areas, allowing a greater degree of learning through experience with minimal control because learning is guided by the same shared understanding their parents have gained from the same source

#### Again:

The religious doctrine that Jesus' death on the cross magically provides appeasement to God, by which means he forgives the world its transgressions is incorrect.

#### Remembering:

Matthew 7:22-23, it hints to us...*"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Here are people who are deep into their beliefs about Jesus, and who are practicing it according to their best understanding, and yet they discover this is not what is required.

Matthew 25:29, it hints to us...*"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."* Here is an example of someone who is trying to operate without the talent he had available. When we begin to realize that the only "real" talent is that which restores us to our rightful place, then we might consider that there really is a **specific requirement**...not one that is arbitrary according to an edict from a separate, distant and powerful God, but **one which is the one law of love, governing all in peace.** That law is returning to awareness of our shared reality, for it is only in operating according to its influence that we have understanding to live together in peace. And that is a daily return to awareness, for like manna in the wilderness, if not replenished fresh often, it spoils and cannot edify.

Jesus cannot do this returning for us...we are required to become meek and willing like a child and to return because we hear this inner influence calling to us...not as a voice per se, but as the result of being attentive and waiting upon the in-flow of insights, knowledge and understanding. Therefore we recognize it when it arises. God...or our reality, is not angry or quick to wrath as has been suggested, and is not one to devise a master plan which includes murder of his son in order to find his own willingness to forgive. That sort of a "God" is not God at all. We have mistaken the voice of fear, which has become like a taskmaster, for the voice of God. God's voice...our reality's voice...is not in words, but may evoke many words...is not in visions or imagery, but may evoke many visions. It is subtle only to people who are unaccustomed to noticing its presence. "FORE GIVENESS" is that which has always been true, and has nothing directly to do with a dispensation of overlooking or tolerance or setting aside of horrendous judgments against us. There is nothing like that in God, and therefore this is not what we need saving from...but only from our blindness by judgment (*the false sense of "good and evil"*) by which we judge ourselves and one another. We are therefore instructed to love one another instead. The only way to love one another is to know one another...and the only way to do that completely is to immerse oneself in the awareness of our shared reality...a gentle baptism if you will.

**It is clear within that whoever wrote this doctrine about salvation related to Jesus did not understand the message and good news they were given.** Jesus' prayer calling for us to come to the understanding of our oneness and equality with God gets right to the point. It is up to us to pause what we're doing and what we're believing...and to wait and see, that the true lord or governor or guide within, is always present, always gentle and helpful, and never overbearing or threatening us with punishment as many biblical writings present. Prophets or apostles of old being inspired does not make their words valid, even if they had a vision of what seemed to be God.

Turning away from our shared reality is turning away, whether intentional or not. And turning back to that reality is turning back, and there is no other remedy or way to salvation. Returning our attention to our reality is salvation because it is returning to that which is "fore given"...or that original reality in which no judgment of "good and evil" exists. There we see that despite all the temporal evidence to the contrary, based in ideation of good and

evil, we are one with God instead of being what those judgments proclaim...and as that very reality, we realize that we are forever innocent and filled with peace.

To believe in the doctrine of a special, personal savior is to pass over to someone else our own responsibility to return our attention to that which guides us, thus never exercising the talent we have. That won't land us in fires of hell...it will just rob us of needed edification...and hide us from the peace that we are in God.

#### Questions to ask oneself:

- Why would God need obedience so badly?
- Why would horrendous fatal punishment to appease anger be the corrective action chosen?
- How would intentionally having an innocent son murdered satisfy such anger?
- What is loving about such radical measures...especially in light of God's being all-powerful in the first place?
- Looking back at the history of the doctrine about sacrifice in exchange for forgiveness, why have those who held this belief been so brutal everywhere they went in the world...at the same time building cathedrals and missions using funds raised from the poor, and coercing the people *under threat of death* to believe this doctrine? (*see Matthew 7:15-23*)
- A common belief in Christianity is that the earlier sacrificing of animals by the Jews was a symbolic reference to the future salvation being provided by sacrifice, with Jesus being sent similar to sending a lamb to the slaughter. It remains to be told why such savage behavior could have to do with saving grace.
- When Abraham, according to his belief in absolute obedience (*no matter what the consequence to anyone*), proceeded to put his son on an altar to become a burnt offering to God, this tells us in plain obvious terms that what Abraham was dealing with was not instruction from a loving father or God, but was something entirely different. ***This is vitally important!*** Back in the 70s, I met a couple who ended up in jail because they had withheld insulin from their diabetic son, causing his death...all because they believed it was the way to show "faith" in God according to their beliefs. These people and Abraham had different beliefs in some ways, and yet both had the exact same willingness to sacrifice someone for beliefs thought to be "right", rather than opening their heart and looking upon the reality of love arising from peace, and knowing this type belief is entirely contraindicated.

**At some point, people must use the talents they have, and discern what is "right" and "better" for themselves, without passing that responsibility off to someone else such as a priest, or even to what they believe to be God, God's instruction, or a savior. Otherwise, mankind cannot restore what was lost or be saved from the results of previous poor decisions.**

It is pretty simple actually. The doctrine is not true. Whatever Jesus did, spreading a message of oneness and forgiveness, it wasn't about a mysterious, magic formula for salvation.

**Then what *is* true about salvation?** This is also simple. In the course of creation and manifestation in the world, each one who enters here gives up the whole vision of reality as being obvious and present in mind. It is yet available, but the mind is distracted learning of the overall created environment it is experiencing...its bodily experiences, feelings of pleasure and pain, and much more. This self-imposed blindness often becomes exacerbated, causing both positive and negative excesses, as perceived results of a seeming lack of knowledge and understanding. This "*turning away*" from whole vision and thus from the single source of that vision, has but one remedy, and that is "*turning toward*" a more direct awareness of the whole vision of reality.

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Does such a *twisted salvation plan* affect us *today* in how we think and feel?

~~~~~> I would not have thought so, but the evidence is all around us.

Even my Pentecostal father who loved me throughout my life, was strongly affected. In our argumentative discussions one day, I asked him:

"You mean that if God told you that all of Los Angless were sinners and you should kill them all, that you would do it???"

To my complete surprise, he narrowed his eyes, grimaced and said vehemently,

"You bet I would!!!"

I don't for a moment think he would ever have done such a thing (*he is deceased now*), but it was clear that in the thinking of his "*obedience is the primary law*" belief system and in his decades of prayerful obeisance toward a belief system-derived mental image of God, he was very serious in that moment. That's scary. It's conditioned visceral

reaction to an incongruent and dysfunction-generating belief system. Despite countless millions of people buying into such beliefs and considering them to be goodness, they still aren't. And yet this traditionalized ideation, put forward as the basis of justifying military action over and over, has had the world in turmoil and war for a very long time. **Such intense false beliefs are not benign, even when they lie dormant in seemingly peaceful people. They are latent radical thought, waiting for just the right time to erupt into violent behavior that is somehow thought to be for the "greater good".** Pointed questions like **"Do you believe in God and Jesus as your personal savior?"** or **"Are you saved?"** are asked with the best of intentions, and yet these questions are the outreach program for bringing people under the rule of a belief system with far-reaching consequences, as shown again and again throughout history, including modern times. And importantly, those *consequences* are not salvation, but over time equate to tearing down of societies of otherwise peaceful people.

Take the time to look at how Christianity's outreach went from city to city, country to country, and continent to continent, coercing people under threat of death to become Christians. This is not love; it is brutality and control. And although the masses of Christians didn't necessarily view it that way, it still was what happened, very systematically, century after century...and they supported the power structures that did this, often enough also supporting the militant aspect.

So ask yourself: **"Good tree bearing good fruit?"** or **"Evil tree with evil fruit?"**

--> **You can't have both fruits from a good tree.** <<-- **No rationalization can make it so.**

(see *Matthew 7:15-23*)

The underlying truth however, is that "good fruit" is not and cannot be good in a judgmental context of "good and evil". Good fruit is good always, because of the influence creating it.

- That is why belief systems based in **judgment between "good and evil"** bring forth fruit that **looks good**, **and** fruit that **looks evil** (*within judgment's context*)...for these are not the fruit of the whole undivided spirit of our shared reality (*fruit grown from the influence of awareness of reality*). These systems, including Christianity, **MUST** bring forth contradictory fruit (*or that which is divided against itself in appearance*), by virtue of their foundation in judgment (*"good and evil"-based ideation*).
- That which is your reality within you never judges you, and is always available to influence and guide you into that which is "good" only...and not "good and evil".

In either case, the fruit evidence observed may seem to be the same good behavior, but that is because one who looks at divided fruit according to judgment is only looking at the good half while ignoring the evil half of the fruit...or vice versa. This fruit then, appears like two fruits...good fruit and evil fruit, hiding the fact that these are one deception. Truly good fruit (*which may be the same exact behavior in outer appearance*) has no evil counterpart...and **THAT is the difference.**

Fortunately, the way of salvation is simple enough for anyone to understand, and has no such radical *follow the leader* aspect to it. While it is both necessary and helpful to become aware of one's shared reality and thus become more free and happy, it is often cited that there is still the issue of one *"being saved"*. Perhaps it would be well to consider that **such radical belief systems are that which we need to be saved from**, and that leaving these behind is part of what is truly needed...*"for the greater good"*, one person at a time. We need to become familiar with and to rely upon our reality more, and upon belief systems less.

Consider that the written allegations of truth which lead to judgmental systems of thought are not true, and are not brought into being in these exacerbated conflict forms by a loving God who forgives. When such writings talk about people being deceived, they never suggest that those very writings are the messenger of that deceit...but they are...even when there is much inspired gold in them as well. Note that hidden gold in the ore is not the same as fruit hanging obviated on the tree. Gold needs the refiner's fire of our willing attention to extract it from the ore. Fruit that is not suitable for edification gets tossed aside as we grow new and edifying fruit.

- **Christianity**, although populated by millions of good people, is a radical belief system which uses ideation which would be repulsive to those same people if they were not captured by and in bondage to the belief system called *Christianity*. It galvanizes people behind a banner, ready to function as a mob, as long as that mob believes doing so is for their salvation from a fate worse than death. Christianity adheres to a membership scheme similar to the earlier Jewish beliefs in a *chosen people*...chosen to be better off eternally than non-members.
- **Actual salvation**, or restoration of what was lost by partaking of "*good and evil*" (or *judgment*), is simple, gentle and unobtrusive. It does not involve a "*plan of salvation*"...only remedy of the problem brought about earlier in one's life.

NOTE: Partaking of "good and evil" or judgment is something everyone does on an individual basis, rather than it being passed on as inherited from Adam, etc.

Actual salvation involves willingness to become aware of one's own reality, which is of course, the simple truth. As such it is available to everyone equally without the chosen membership aspect and without excluding of groups of people based on arbitrary rules of belief or conduct. One is either willing or they are not. And if they are not, there is only one remedy...to become willing. And all may come, at any time, regardless of any past which might be supposed to stand in the way, such as radical belief systems propose. Even if one is not thinking about this, if they become willing to open their hearts to notice their awareness, it is so for them, without any creed or belief or planned practice.

Be there any god, principality or power which exercises power over people within the temporal world...or any world whatsoever, such entity is not God, our ever-present shared reality in which we live, move and have being. What that means is anyone or anything perceived as separate from ourselves, if worshipped by excessive attention becomes an idol to us. But even when we do not perceive any entity in our experience, anything at all in this world which receives attention without the first fruits of that attention being toward our reality for receiving its influence and guidance, these things function as idols (*i.e.-in a non-edifying way*) until we turn again to notice our reality and accept the gift of understanding our own selves.

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

– Proverbs 4:7

- Wisdom** is being wise from continually accepting the influence from our shared reality.
- Understanding** is realizing that wisdom is present, expressing the foundation of our being as guidance to our world experience. Wisdom expresses as understanding shared abundantly according to our willingness to look upon it (in other words, to not choose to look away).
- Faith** is forever one with wisdom. From our temporal viewpoint in perception, faith can be explained as belief in or reliance upon that which is *always* faithful (*ever-present and unchanging*). Beyond that view however, faith is simply our reality itself. It is what we are as eternal living peace which supersedes intellectual understanding. Faith is not the result of strong belief, but is that which when (re)discovered shows itself (*our own self*) as entirely faithful and therefore likened to a foundation upon which we can build in confidence according to its influence. (*That which changes, that which is arbitrary, that which is divided against itself in judgments of "good and evil"...is not faithful.*)

It is unfortunate that so many accept traditional teachings as true, contributing to the dysfunction and pain of the world in which we live. Reliance upon a book, or a teacher, rather than using the talents readily available within, has historically led us down a very difficult path. It is time we look up from our reading and reverently listening to others, and that we pause and allow true governance to arise in our minds once again, dissolving the unseemly behaviors we've been doing and calling righteousness. Once brought into the light of reality's awareness, "*good and evil*" are not so. The only *real* good is the influence of understanding from the wholeness of knowledge...peace arising into the world as the expression called love. Although regular inspired influence can be denied and refused and although we can turn away from it in mind, real good has no opposite called evil. Such

concept of evil never had a reality, and never entered into any place or any person at any time...beyond an imagination trapped by believing in "good and evil". The kingdom of God (*reality*) is everywhere, and nothing that defiles can enter...for there is nothing *else* beyond or outside of that infinite kingdom. – Revelation 21:27

When judgment as "good and evil" is actively promoted and entertained, this results in exacerbated, denial-generated, mental blindness and confusion about the "only good" of our shared reality. That is why the wise instruction was given in the garden (*metaphorically*) and is yet given within today. Partaking of judgment with increasing levels uses the mental dividedness of "good and evil", and we would do well to heed the warning this biblical story provides.

Judgment becomes what seems like a cruel taskmaster. This judgmental, wrathful, genocidal, and totally insane mental taskmaster has been misidentified as inspiration, and as the voice of God. However difficult this may seem, it is necessary to face it head on and deeply consider its implications. This type of belief, wrapped up in a complex belief system in many versions, has held the world in bondage for millennia, reaping harvest after harvest of war and needless death. Our children are sent off to war in support of the writings of those who misidentified this taskmaster as God. Know the truth now and be free.

To know God, we must pause belief in this **clearly erroneous voice** for a moment...regularly, and stop expressing our fear by taskmaster-pleasing behavior and illusory-world-accommodating behavior, and allow awareness of the **true reality of that which we are** to arise in mind and be seen as it is. In that reality is **only good** as love arising from peace. There is no "good and evil" there, but only pure good. **Therein lies the peace of God with nothing resisting it or causing conflict, violence and pain.**

We are free to hold our hands over our eyes or wear institutionalized blinders, but as long as we do this, we fail to see what we need to see in order for edification through influence to be noticed.

Today, I don't usually ask questions in meditation, but allow my life to simply be meditation without actively doing a process called meditation, and trust the influence of awareness of reality to be present in all that pertains to my life and interactions. I've no need to be "right"...but only to remain open to awareness...the most meek, gentle and freeing presence and governance that could ever be possible.

Mankind regards the blood as life, and loss of the blood as losing life. This belief and dependence, however supported by temporal evidence, is not the ultimate truth of our reality. We are poignantly aware in our beliefs that we must feed our blood nutrition, water and oxygen, and protect the vessel in which it resides, and we operate primarily from this viewpoint in all that we do.

But the underlying foundation and truth is that we are created by that reality which is found within, and that this is the source of our life, including the manifest illusion of living a temporary lifetime in this world.

While we may not find it wise to ignore what our eyes tell us about the evidence that blood is life, we can still turn within, and allow the influence of the reality which knows the truth to influence our lives. As we do this, conflict is introduced much less in our lives, for the inner truth is allowed its rightful priority of reliance or governance over the outer evidence of our illusory sojourn as the created. We may be experiencing difficult circumstances and disparity in this world, but we need not ignore the reality that we are...(*metaphorically*) the children of God (*reality*).

Thus, the shedding of blood for the remission of sins is symbolic of our letting go our tight grasp on the evidence or illusory (*false*) witnesses which indicate that blood is our life as first reliance. By this relinquishment and only by this shall we experience removal of the symptoms which arise from not acknowledging our reality as that first reliance.

*"Thou shalt have no other gods **before** me." (before God...or reality).*

– Exodus 20:3

While being manifest in this illusory world of time and appearances, we do not need to totally ignore the witnesses of that illusion. It is nonetheless REQUIRED to remain in remembrance of the truth and source of our life within (*the single law of love*)...or in the alternative, reap the rewards of ignoring that inner resource. In order for us to live in this

world at all, we will always entertain imagery *graven* in mind (*memory*). The key is to keep our reality also in mind, never putting our imagery as first reliance (i.e.-"before") as though it were faithful and the source of life. The paths of illusory imagery which appear as this world and as our walking through it must follow reality's lead, rather than puff itself up in importance to overwhelm our noticing of awareness of reality.

- The language used in Philippians (2:6) shows Jesus' own understanding of his **equality with** that which was called God; which is not the same thing as being separate from mankind in his being God...**in fact...**
- In other places, it suggests that we are the sons of God, casting aside the typical view of Jesus as the "only begotten Son" of God.

The term, "only begotten Son" only appears in the Bible a few times, none of them instances where Jesus said or promoted this. It was his disciples' view. Instead, Jesus appeared to be seeking to transmit to his disciples, and through them to others in the world, the understanding that **the father, and Jesus, and they were all One.** The relationship he speaks of describes a relationship between himself and the father, then reiterates this same relationship as being what the others needed to understand and see...just as he did. No indication of hierarchy, but oneness as shared perfection and glory (*i.e.-all of the same reality, all of the same mind and understanding*). Jesus voices the intention that they be brought into awareness of the same equality as he experienced with the father. It's actually pretty clear...but even if it was not clear here in the Bible (*which wavers back and forth*), it is nonetheless clear in spirit. He is teaching them to understand that they are as he and the father are...perfect...in agreement with the instruction to:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

– Matthew 5:48

Following the "two-edged sword teaching method" (*my own term**), this instruction is mixed into a lot of hardline rules of conduct, a seemingly odd mixture, and yet in other places the law was simplified to be love...only, fulfilling all. It is required of each one to willingly become reacquainted with (*aware of*) the shared reality within, and when reading or hearing anything to notice that each line agrees in the heart with its influence or does not. Many, many passages in the Bible do NOT agree or resonate in the heart, and yet people steeped in learned obedience-oriented ideation tend to believe most anything said, regardless of how inhumane and uncaring it sounds, which is truly unfortunate and harmful to them and to their world.

* Briefly, the "two-edged sword teaching method" is one in which truth as precious gold is mixed with an overburden of earthy untruth and the ore matrix in which the gold is found, leaving the reader to notice the difference between ore and gold by and because awareness is allowed to arise and guide the mind.

More on the "two-edged sword teaching method" and the institutionalized mindsets toward whom it was given, and actually written by the very people who needed to be taught, but who were set in their ways and "stiff-necked": expanded definition (*link in web site, not available in PDF...available on Summary page*)

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

*"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; **that they may be one, even as we are one:***

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

– John 17:20-23

- People will cite that our being sons of God is a matter of "adoption"; however, their view of adoption is not correct. **We are sons of God by adoption of the willingness to look upon and rely upon our reality as God within...exactly as Jesus is found doing...the eternal shared oneness.** This was his prayer.
- In such case, we also would no longer consider it robbery to be equal with God.
- As our manifestation is influenced by our reality more and more, we lose the discordant resistance to that governance, and are therefore possessors of awareness of that reality by our adoption of willingness.
- That does not mean Jesus is not God, but simply means he is not God in terms of how this is looked at in religious ideology and Christianity.

- Just as Jesus turned to his inner reality often, and therefore knew he was not a finite, dying human manifestation only, but was real and forever alive by virtue of that which was in him, as him, so also can we do the same. The commonality of our reality is true for all of us; which is why salvation from our plight is possible.
- Without any religious connotation whatsoever, all who turn unto that which is real within, shall eventually begin to notice it, which beginning of actively noticing is often the noticing of shifted and increased understanding. This in turn brings confidence beyond what belief can give, and also is cause for great happiness based in the joy that reality is.
- One can change beliefs, but they cannot change their reality.

The Lord of the temple of manifestation which we are is whole reality, and they who would give attention to the Lord of our being, must offer it according to what it is in us.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

– John 4:23-24

- The reality of us is meek and mild, never commanding or coercing, and yet ever-present...a "whole spirit" if you will.
- As source of our manifest appearance and life in this world, this whole spirit could be likened unto a "father".
- As that manifestation comes forth from its source, appearing in the world according to influence from that whole spirit, this could be likened unto a "son".

These three are one, and yet the son is the dream in his father's eye made manifest (expression of that which is real).

The whole oneness and only source, expressing as the Word which begets the creation and becomes part of it...or the only begotten (son) creation of that source...held forever safe in the arms of that "whole substance as spirit" throughout the oft dark night of illusion and journey as a living soul in a world of discovery and exploration.

That son, due to forgetting his source to a degree during the early portion of manifestation, goes out into the world, facing enjoyment mixed with difficulties on every hand...until he remembers his father, and returns to look upon him. As he does this, he is overjoyed and amazed that he has not actually lost his inheritance as he'd thought...and he opens his heart to allow that inheritance to flow through him without resistance, governing in its rightful place in the ordering of the paths of his journey.

Coming into discovery and full understanding of this is salvation, the restoration of what seemed lost from partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is atonement...or returning to take on the power of peace as the authority of oneness in all the infinite reality that self forever is. As it was in the beginning, before partaking and consequent darkness, so also it is seen to be forever the same perfection, standing in the clear light which knows no darkness. It is time for each one to look up because there is no cause for a lowered head. This understanding is simple and is fore-given before the world experience began...the birthright of each and every person.

Doug Couch - 2018