

Regarding the fifteen August article, "A Great Divide", as a former Moravian Pastor, I would like to offer the following response.

What I have to say is meant for the wider Church as well.

This article is rightly entitled, "A Great Divide".

However, to understand the roots of this division, it is necessary to look at "The Great Divide", the Fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3.

Specifically, verse 4-5: "and the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die.

For God knows that in the day you eat of it (the forbidden fruit from the "Tree of knowledge of good and evil." Genesis 2:16-17) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' "

What is the forbidden fruit? It is not an apple. It is self, the choice of self over God and others.

The constant, continuous and consequent "fruit" of this forbidden fruit is that we human beings have historically and hysterically organized ourselves both politically and religiously on the polarities of the left and right.

Our sinful nature has its natural bent toward the left, or right, progressive, or conservative.

The left religiously tends to favor love over truth, whereas the right tends to emphasize truth over love.

Specifically, the left exalts tolerance over truth, laws, sins, i.e., the only sin there can be is intolerance.

In this way the religious left diminishes, takes away from, the Bible and thereby offers an oxymoronic "cheap grace."

This is but the license to sin which is to revisit the ancient heresy of antinomianism (against the law, free to do whatever").

Why does the religious left do this?

For control, self's desire to be like God, deciding what is good and evil, thereby judging who is in or out.

Is it possible that what the religious left means by "love" is really tolerance?

Moreover, has this "tolerance", as "religious correctness", become the new legalism, the very thing the left tends to hate?

The religious right leans toward truth as most important to the detriment of love, mercy, and compassion.

To shore up their understanding of the truth, and to guard it, they tend to add rules and regulations that must be kept.

And why is this?

For control, to be able to judge who is in or out.

Again, is this not just the original sin of propping up the lie of self, to be like God, therefore able to decide what is good and evil?

In so doing, the religious right offers only an oxymoronic "earned grace", which is nothing but the ancient heresy of legalism.

Jesus Christ is not only undivided humanity and Divinity, He is also undivided Truth and Love / Love and Truth, Who embodies "costly grace", something only Faith, not reason, can receive.

Why is this?

Only the humility of faith can receive the revelation of God in the Scriptures.

This revelation comes from beyond self / pride.

Reason / religion cannot get past self, trusts only self.

Therefore, God wrote the Holy Scriptures to and for Faith not reason.

Anytime there is an attempt to divide Jesus Christ, heresy happens.

“But without Faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

It follows then, that Truth without Love is not the Truth, it is mean, of the lie.

How can self-righteousness ever be of the Truth?

Jesus said, “You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

Free from what? The lie of self. (Gen. 3:5)

Conversely, Love without the Truth is not Love, it is deceitful, of the lie.

How can Love come from a lie?

Self-love is not love at all. “We love because God first loved us” (1 John:4-19).

The weaponization of either truth or love is of the original lie.

To absolutize either one is idolatrous.

The result of this is the prideful attempt to create God in its own image and likeness on the left and the right, which is but the invention of religion; “Man’s plan for God.”

Yet Jesus Christ was sent from the Father to reconcile sinful humanity’s broken relationship with God.

But it must be remembered that it was religion “left and right” that put Jesus Christ to death – and still seeks to do so to this very day.

Jesus Christ is the Center, the intersection of Heaven and Earth, even the Cross, where He is building His Church, such that “the gates of Hell cannot prevail against it.” (cf. Matt. 16:13-19).

Though we all come from either the left or right, if we would know Jesus Christ and His Church, we must respond to His claim and call on our lives on His terms; “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what advantage is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?” (Luke 9:23-25)

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