

One Christian Truth

The Religion - or Just My Religion?

I call this website Affirming The Faith not because I think there's only one faith around (there patently isn't), but because I firmly believe in objective reality (there's only one reality, though peoples' ideas about what it might be, or their perceptions of it, may be very different (and patently are)).

That is, I'm not a postmodernist, and in fact, I'm not a relativist of any kind (such people as me get demonised as being absolutist, like those unpleasant monarchs in Early-Modern Europe, almost a kind of fascist, really; I'll have to live with that). There is one truth (I believe orthodox Christianity has it; I may be wrong, but if so, I'm totally wrong, as opposed to totally right; Christianity cannot be half right or a bit right).

Thus, there is one reality that is constant (if you doubt it, ask why you were not a snail, yesterday, in Lithuania, or indeed a zornlin on the planet Zog ("zornlin"? – don't ask). The one reality, and truth, exists independent of all of us, so (uncool as it sounds) you really cannot tell me about your truth, as opposed to me telling you about mine. The name of this website attempts to be a celebration of this conviction.

Isn't Christianity much the same? Of course, since its inception, Christians have brought about separate movements and sects, reformations and reactions, separations and re-definitions; but the point of these – indeed, their virtue - is their claim that they have got, have found, the truth, the truth; they have not claimed simply to have found another equally-valid thing (otherwise, why not just continue in/with what they had before?); of course, the claim just to have found an equally-valid alternative ("our tradition") sounds much more "liberal" and tolerant to modern ears; it is not).

All this appeal to truth, the one real truth, implies a conviction that the objective reality that is Christianity – something independent of us – was not just something created by humans, but something humans were given.

This word "Christianity" is shorthand for the actions of our creator, in time, and his chosen revelation of this to humans (I write his, because – it seems to me – our creator chose to reveal himself as he; it wasn't my choice, and we can't change that). Because of this, it is totally false, and nonsensical, to claim that all kinds of beliefs and ideas can be equally true or valid, or, indeed, that we can re-make them at will by some kind of committee decision, or, indeed, delete them from the previous canon of things validly believed in.

To create (or be seen trying to create) "new" doctrines (or remove "old" ones) is to confirm the view promoted by the militant atheists (and believed by many others), that religion is really a purely-human affair, simply created by people in accordance with their own (perceived) needs. So the notion of bishops and archbishops, etc., introducing new doctrines, or removing old ones, from authentic Christianity, is nonsensical, they have no such capability (never mind authority); they would need, first, to change the mind of God. But they do have the ability to "prove" that religion is just a collection of human wishes.

The idea of Christianity being simply a collection of things I think that I wish to believe in, or "can" believe in ("I could never believe in a god who ...") simply reveals a kind of oughtism, "reality" created according to one's desires. Indeed, the whole idea of "my Christianity" reveals the concept of personally-created beliefs to be an entirely bogus one.

So should someone ask me what "my religion" is, sometime soon, I shall tell them I haven't got one, since if I devised one, it would be simply my creation. All I have – we have – is the truth God has chosen to reveal to us.