

The Essential Truth That Would Allow One to Become a Statesman

Our Creator is righteous, meaning He is morally perfect. Each person has an eternal existence, not limited by the mortality of our earthly lives. At the end of our earthly life, each person that our righteous Creator views as morally perfect will co-exist with Him in Heaven for all eternity. Those our righteous Creator does not view as morally perfect, because of unforgiven sins resulting from our rebellious nature, will exist for all eternity away from Him in what is commonly called hell. It is called hell because of the terrible suffering for all in this place. The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs, not only during our earthly life, but for all eternity. In our Creator's guidebook to us, hell is described as "eternal fire", "a lake that burns with fire and sulfur" (Revelation. 21.8). As Jesus taught:

They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth... Anyone who has ears should listen! (Matthew 13:42-43)

From an eternal perspective, only the righteous can stand in our Creator's presence. The dilemma is that as a part of the human condition and the choices we are allowed to make with our free will:

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

We all fall short of our Creator's requirement! However, God in His love for His creation, and His sensitivity to the human predicament, has taken it upon Himself to provide a solution for this predicament. Knowing that mankind by itself could never solve this predicament, He entered human history Himself as Jesus to solve this dilemma. He did this by dying the painful suffering of the crucifixion, not for anything He had done wrong, but for what each of us has done to offend our righteous Creator. God has told us:

Jesus is the image of the invisible God.... For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things...by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:15-20).

Mahatma Gandhi described this sacrifice when he said that Jesus,

a man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.

Thus, Jesus has told us:

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).

Our Creator has told us:

There is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God is able to forgive us and to see us as holy. Jesus' death and resurrection is the only provision given to mankind whereby we can have our sins forgiven and have this intimate relationship with God that lasts for all eternity. God has told us:

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation (Colossians 1:21-22).

God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us! (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Let me be very clear: What I am advocating is not religion. It is the person of Jesus. As God Himself, Jesus is for all of us, not just certain races, cultures, or regions of the world. I believe this is what Mahatma Gandhi meant when he said:

Because the life of Jesus has the significance and the transcendency to which I have alluded, I believe that he belongs not solely to Christianity, but to the entire world; to all races and people, it matters little under what flag, name or doctrine they may work, profess a faith or worship a God inherited from their ancestors.

The repentance and forgiveness that allows us to have an intimate relationship with God and to know with confidence that we will never be separated from our Creator, both in this life and for all eternity, is centred in the person of Jesus. Let us not think we can have this any other way but through embracing Jesus and Him alone.

Perhaps this illustration may help you understand what our Creator has done for us through His love. There was a small town that had only one judge. This judge had a rebellious son who, as a result of breaking the law, was brought before the judge. The judge, in his desire to be just, had no choice but to declare his son guilty and to issue a sentence of a steep fine or a prison sentence. This presented a hopeless situation as the fine was beyond the son's capacity to pay. After issuing the penalty, the judge then took off his robe, left the judge's bench, stood next to his son, and paid the fine on his behalf. This is a picture of what our Creator God has done for us. Out of His love, He has paid our penalty for us.

How do we place our faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, so we can experience this intimate relationship with God? The illustration that communicates best to me relates to the region where I grew up — near Niagara Falls. The water flows over Niagara Falls so violently that if anyone falls into the water, it is certain death. Many people do risky things over Niagara Falls to gain attention. One of these was a tightrope walker. He had a wire strung over the Falls, from one side to the other. This man first walked along this wire from one side of the Falls to the other, and back. Then, as the crowd grew, he repeated his walk but this time he pushed a wheelbarrow in front of him as he walked over the wire to the other side and back. Then, he boldly filled the wheelbarrow with bricks and guided it along the wire over the Falls. By this time, the crowd had grown very large and was cheering loudly for him. He then asked the crowd "How many of you believe I can take this wheelbarrow over the Falls carrying a person inside instead of these bricks?" The crowd cheered wildly. Then, he asked the crowd "Who is willing to get into the wheelbarrow?" The crowd suddenly became silent. Their belief lacked 100% confidence. To place our faith in Jesus Christ means to get into the wheelbarrow with Him, making ourselves completely dependent upon Him. Our sole basis for having our sins forgiven and for entering a personal relationship with God is availing ourselves of Jesus' death on our behalf.

It is this making ourselves dependent upon Jesus that gives us the forgiveness of our Creator for Him to view us as righteous. An important consequence of this intimate

relationship with our Creator is His dwelling within our lives, and, as a result, receiving His ability to guide us as His instruments in our nations and to help achieve His purposes. No one — neither you nor I — can fully become the agent God would use to bring our Creator's blessings to our nations without the life of Jesus in us. Therefore, both for the sake of ensuring your eternal destiny as well as developing the kind of relationship with God necessary for serving our nations as Statesmen, I challenge you to come to Him. Jesus invites us:

If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink! The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him (John 7:37-38).

As we come to Jesus and drink, God will forgive us. Furthermore, this will allow us to receive instruction from God and to partner with Him to build healthy nations. For this reason, I invite you to come to Jesus and drink. Let me encourage you to embrace the Master Shepherd of our world and your life. I encourage you to invite Jesus into your life by praying to God, for example:

Holy God, please forgive me for sinning against You. Thank You for loving me enough that You came to this earth as Jesus and died on my behalf so that I could have an intimate relationship with You. I ask You to come into my life to dwell. Today, I receive You as my Saviour from my sins. I ask You to guide me moment-by-moment as I serve You. Thank You. Amen.

Not only will this ensure your eternal destiny, but it will start you on the most exciting journey known to mankind, including opening the door to become God's agent for serving our people and bringing the well-being to our people that He intends. This allows us to operate as Statesmen by applying the powerful truth that we may then allow the life of Jesus to live through us:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:19-20).

If we were to apply this with each decision we make, it would mean each decision being made under the guidance of our Creator, and the love of our Creator for His creation being reflected. Then, the resulting acts would be considered the selfless acts of a Statesman.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE STATESMAN

Am I willing to apply Pascal's Wager: "What do I have to lose by trusting God to provide eternal life for me in light of all I am offered to gain by a trustworthy Creator?"

Is it fair to my people to risk depriving them of all the benefits our trustworthy Creator promises them if I do not submit to Him and govern as His instrument?