



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Thursday, November 7, 2019

For none of us lives for himself and none of us dies for himself — Romans 14:7

Reason is Jesus Christ Himself

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We are limited, bounded beings. We do not, we cannot, know everything. We can, however, know lots of things ... but never every thing. We are always learning.

It is a temptation to imagine that a created being can know enough. But this is never the case. Only God always knows enough. Everything else is His creation. And even God requires a kind of otherness between persons. That is the trinity.

We must live together with others who speak our language. And we sometimes learn from mixing with those who don't, as I did yesterday in the Antigua, Guatemala market where Spanish is the lingua franca.

Paul prefaces the idea quoted above writing, "One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind."

How is it possible to know that we are limited and bounded beings — living and dying for others — on the one hand and be fully convinced in our own mind on the other? The answer is simple.

Humans have two hands.

Our heart beats in between while the head rules over all. None of the parts live alone. All of them function as one.

Christianity teaches that every human person is created in the image of God. There is something to this mystery that emerges in all people no matter their faith. Maybe it's the four year undergraduate philosophy degree in me but I like to think that this universal human mystery has something to do with reason. The Greeks called it Logos.

The gospel writer, John, introduced his explanation of Christianity, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The word translated into the English "word" here is "logos" in the original Greek language in which John wrote his gospel.

An authoritative dictionary of the Greek language fills five pages with English words defining "logos."

Christians live and die together ... reasoning together. God wants us to live and die outside of ourselves, in fellowship with others. Christians live and die fully convinced in our own mind, with Faith in Jesus Christ as the anchor of our soul.

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John teaches us that Jesus Christ Himself is reason. He is the Word. He is thinking. A person is fundamentally an idea, a thought. And humans are created in His image.

Nothing, of course, makes sense without thinking. That goes without saying. We don't live or die for ourselves, trapped inside our own sense of the world around us. No. As Paul wrote continuing on in Romans, "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

The common ground of humanity is our ability to think, to reason. Because Christians build their lives on a religious bedrock informed both by revelation from a personal, triune God, and worldly reason, they are uniquely equipped to bring peace.

Paul writes further in Romans, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval."

There's a reason Christianity is so popular in the world. There's a reason the West's five hundred year epoch of atheism is giving way to a pursuit — rooted in religion — of the good, the true and the beautiful.

The reason is reason itself. The reason is personal.

The reason is Jesus Christ.

Amen.