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Christ In You means No Degrees to Spirituality

By Aleck Cartwright

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The Myth of Degrees of Spirituality

I do not agree that there are degrees of spirituality, or that there is anything a believer can do or not do to be more or less pleasing to God. Read on to see why there is actually no heirarchy of spirituality in Christianity.

The Bible clearly speaks of the fact of the indwelling Christ, our only hope of Glory. We are told that we live by the righteousness of God. That we partake of eternal life and divine nature, that we are seated with Christ in Heavenly places. If all this were true as we read in the word of God, then why are so we quick to attempt to explain it away as a figment of our imagination?

This "in Christ" position is the most often mentioned doctrinal statement in the whole of the Bible, more than baptism, communion, faith, love or anything else. Yet the centrality of all of these doctrinal statement is made perfect and complete in Christ as the central figure of all that exists.

The world, the angels, heaven and earth and every living thing is brought together in Him, and by Him they exist. By Him were they all created, in His name and by His power. It is through Him that we live and move and have our being. Though sinhas tainted much of creation, God is still Lord of All and every knee in heaven and earth will tultimately bow to Him. Every man is answerable to God as His creator, in fact, it is the ultimate betrayal for the created to deny the existence and need for His creator. Like an atheist on His funeral day, all dressed up and nowhere to go. In their denial they are judged and given what they want, an eternity in Hell, apart from the presence of God.

God is just and righteous and when Jesus said, "Be holy even as your father in heaven is holy." He was giving man a clue of His ultimate salvation. If you are in the Son, then the Son dwells in you. The spirit of Christ ultimately fulfilled what the law in all of it's perfection, was unattainable and impossible to fulfill for man. The Law through our own failings to uphold it, leads us to a God who gives us a part of Himself, a rib so to speak, whereby we may live by His righteousness to His glory.

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In order to be a son we must partake of the Father's nature, nothing short of that will do. If we have the son we have life, because the life is in the Son. Spirit brings forth spirit. We live by the faith, love, peace and righteousness of God (1 Cor. 1:30).

Apart from Christ, we are nothing. If our identity is in Christ we become one with Him, just as two become one in marriage, we take on a new self and a new identity in Him. We do not become God, but we do become as Him, He does not become us but He does become as us!

So if we have the righteousness of God, what of sin? Do we have no sin? Can we do what we like knowing that the righteousness of God covers any evil? This is not a license to sin and neither does it disregard the fact that we still sin.

The answer is in 1 John, for there is a sin unto death which we do not pray for, this is a sin out of a sinful nature and the only way out of this is to have Christ in us as an exchanged nature, sin is put out and Christ is our righteousness through salvation. There is also a sin not unto death, where we still sin, but our new nature in Christ offers us forgiveness, in place of our old nature which gave us the wage of death. For the sin not unto death we pray for and God is faithful and willing to forgive us of all unrighteousness.

There is not two types of righteousness, one by Christ and another by us, for none is righteous before God, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are spiritual beings, but that dimension of our lives, the third dimension, (body being first dimension, the soul (mind will and emotion) being second), the spirit (the third dimension) is not utilised fully until Christ fills it and becomes the fourth dimension to our lives. Where ordinary becomes extraordinary and natural becomes supernatural.

This fourth dimension is not dependant on anything we do and nothing can change it, similar in fact to the fact that I am the son of Clifford and Isabelle Cartwright! I may well do terrible things and the family may disown me, but my birthright is not something that can ever be taken away from me. The same is true in Christ, He is your birthright.

There are no standards of spirituality, because our only standard of righteousness and holiness is Christ, not anything we do or don't do, nor how long we spend doing or not doing it! Christ has become our only life to the Father, by sharing in God's one and only son, we become partakers of Jesus' birthright and one with God in our spirit.

Every believer in Christ is on an even standing with every other believer. If I have been a Christian for twenty years and there is another believer who has just become a Christian, there is no difference between us to God. I am a firm believer that religion has divided us along denominational grounds as well as spiritual standing erroneously. A new believer needs his mind renewed just as much as an older believer and would benefit from reading and having a revelation from God of who He has become in Christ. No man can give that to Him, only God, though He does it through many means.

When we become Christians, we read the Bible and take it at face value, reading Ephesians 1 we are captivated by who we have become in Christ and believe every word as a child, hearing for the first

time the story of his birth from the lips of his father. Sadly as we grow up many of us lose our first excitement because we are told from all sides many reasons to disregard what the Bible says about us.

So we become indoctrinated as early believers and lose touch with what God says we are over who our denomination or church says we are. We begin to judge others by standards other than Christ in us and Christ in other believers. We judge by how useful or gifted others are, how they look, how they speak, how long they pray and how much they study.

Obviously, these are not always indicative of where people are with God of course, because one learns to perform ultimately, bragging of how much they pray, how long, how many days of fasting. When these standards are lifted up above Christ, they look hypocritical because we are, by design, never supposed to save ourselves or becoming anything in and of ourselves.

But when we instead lift up Christ above all else as our fulfilment, He will draw all men unto Himself. Can we dare to believe what we read in Ephesians 1 and other portions of the Bible and take them at

face value trusting that God will correct any ideas of God that are erroneous?

Taking hold of Christ in us is the polar opposite of suicide, but the way to both poles is through despair for life. When we realise that we are at the edge and end of ourselves, that is where Christ can begin for us. Ultimately there will be no middle ground. We choose one road or the other, the road to suicide is wide and straight. The Road to life is hard and treacherous. But we are all travellers, the journey is worked out through our identity and what we place it in. I choose to place mine in Christ, because He has deemed me worthy to place His identity in me.

We work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

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Christ in you expressed as you, www.God-life.com, a site to celebrate Christianity's Best Kept Secret, that God lives in the believing human being.

Religion and Spirituality – what differentiates Religion from Spirituality?

By Vijay Kumar

Religion and Spirituality – what differentiates Religion from Spirituality?

Religion is "absolute truth of life" of the physical manifested world. It is Religion and not Spirituality which forms the basis of the present society we live in. In the present the needs for following a Religion being at its minimum... it is easy to follow any Religion. Anyone... even a layman can follow any Religion but not Spirituality?

What vastly differentiates Religion and Spirituality? Religion... if it forms the core of the physical

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manifested world... it is the Spirituality (the truth of our Soul within) which upholds the values in the society. Without Spirituality the physical manifested world cannot sustain for long but in the absence of religion... the society can survive on its own.

It is Spirituality (the truth of our real self... our Soul within) which forms the core of the cosmic world. The physical manifested world is a reality in terms of the senses (which guide every human being on its earthly journey). In the cosmic world... our physical manifested world does not hold good for there is nothing solid in the Cosmos. Everything in the Cosmos is made up of the basic building block of the Cosmos which comprise of atoms and molecules alone.

Religion is meant for passing of the physical manifested life in a meaningful manner. Unable to understand the nature of God... humanity has built for itself various religious centers all over the globe. These religious centers are they a mosque, temple or a church... provide a succor to the ever ailing society. They quench the thirst of an average human being... one who does not have time or the resources to contemplate directly on God the Almighty.

Indulgence in Spirituality is not meant for the average human being. To be able to fathom the depths of the Scriptures of the various religions of the world (the core truths of Spirituality)... one needs to dive deep into the pearls of wisdom contained in the various sacred Scriptures of the world. Spirituality is totally oblivious of a religion. In the field of Spirituality one need not go to a mosque, temple or a church in search of God. It is contemplation and only contemplation which shall lead one to God the Almighty.

Spirituality (contrary to religion) is all about the spirit existing within every human being neigh every living being (Jiva as we call it in Hinduism). It is truth of every life prevailing on Mother Earth. It is the real self of us which exists within every living being since the birth of that body in the form of an individual soul. Spirituality and Religion are the two fundamentals of life which every living being is required to follow simultaneously.

One can live without Religion but not without Spirituality for Spirituality forms the core of very existence of every living being. It is the spirit within every human being that we exist as a physical form on Mother Earth. We may or may not indulge in understanding Spirituality or a Religion but inherently every living being pursues the path of Spirituality in every manifestation. Spirituality is that fundamental of life which cannot be ignored by one.

To be able to understand the basics of the Spirituality (not religion) one needs to understand the

underlying meaning of the various sacred Scriptures existing on Mother Earth. Whatever our religious masters teach us on the physical plane may not be a truthful representation of whatever is contained in the sacred Scriptures. Many commentaries may exist related to a particular sacred Scripture but all may not be correct or rightly represent the facts contained therein.

To be able to interpret the sacred Scriptures correctly one needs to understand the inner meaning of the core teachings contained therein. Spirituality in other words can only be best understood from a realized master. Only those who have reached the level of Mahavira, Gautama Buddha, Jesus Christ

or Prophet Mohammed can deliver the humanity of its ills.

On the contrary going to a temple, mosque or a church can provide temporary succor to the ailing humanity but it is only Spirituality which can provide a permanent relief. Religion provides relief in day-to-day life but Spirituality liberates one forever from the cycle of birth and death. Religion is primarily a following of an enlightened master... it is only the correct interpretation of his teachings that one can follow spirituality to its logical end.

Buddhism Religion relates to the teachings of Gautama Buddha. The Islamic Religion is based on the teachings of Prophet Mohammed. Jainism (which can not be rightly called as a Religion but a way of life) is based on the collective teachings of the various Tirthankars (enlightened souls). Similarly Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Following the teachings of Mahavira, Gautama Buddha, Jesus Christ or Prophet Mohammed... One can definitely reach the higher portals of Religion but to become one like Mahavira, Gautama Buddha, Jesus Christ or Prophet Mohammed one needs to understand the core teachings of the realized masters themselves in a totally unadulterated form.

In a nutshell, if we desire to understand the fundamentals of life itself and reach the end of the cosmic journey... we need to understand Spirituality in totality. And on the contrary if we desire to live the present physical manifested life in the best manner possible then following the dictates of Religion alone would suffice.

Vijay Kumar... The Man who Realized God in 1993 explains what differentiates Religion from Spirituality. Subscribe free Newsletter "Spiritual Secrets Unveiled" – Explore hidden cosmic truths – Glossary of Words in Hinduism



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