

The Quest for the Ideal Life

Remember the discussion of religion we had a couple of months ago? I didn't think so. Most of us try not to think about religion except when it is absolutely necessary - like at funerals or weddings, of when we are in a whole lot of trouble. Anyway, we looked in a dictionary to define religion as the quest for the ideal life. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, or something along that line. Freedom to be who we are, and to live free from the constraints and control of governments, societies, religious or political entities, or other individuals. If we accept that definition, most of us are religious to some degree, without even thinking about it. Ironically, that definition would disqualify almost every denomination or organized religious system from consideration. So what gives? The cynic would say that it is about CONTROL - who's in charge. Faith is lacking on the part of those who think that God cannot really affect the lives of His creation without help from the "higher-ups" in the religious echelon.

This quest for the ideal life is often portrayed as a utopian fantasy, unattainable by the common man. But, deep down inside many of us, God has ignited a spark. This is a desire to live as free as we were created to be. Because our ancestors screwed up, we have inherited a mess of a world, and an inability to fix what's wrong. It seems that the more effort and money we throw at the problems, the more screwed up they get. Last fall, I bought a used motorcycle. This was one step on my road to personal freedom, and I looked forward to riding the wind. Because of a previous owner's lack of sense (and my own stupidity for not checking), I bought a bike without a second gear. Sure, I can ride, but it is really a pain in the . . . neck to have to deal with a missing gear. Like me and my bike, something is lacking in all of our lives, which we have referred to as the quest for the ideal life.

The first step in finding fulfillment is to recognize that there is an ideal, something more than what we've found so far. Most of us have already realized that money or power or things will not get us any closer to that ideal. As we have acquired more of these things, we have found the resulting satisfaction to be fleeting. Maybe we have tried alcohol or drugs or sex, and have found that they, too, leave us empty in the long run. Some have even desperately turned to religion, only to come up dry. Unfortunately, many of us have finally given up on ever finding the ideal life. Please don't give up quite yet. The religious system offers no relief, but the Creator of life does. What we are really seeking is found in the person of Jesus Christ. He was so convinced of this ideal for us, that He put his life on the line to attain it for us. The religious and governmental authorities of his day conspired to keep it from us, but in his death for us, we have access to this ideal life. It does not come by conformity to a system, but by faith in Jesus Christ. If God has ignited the spark in you, you know what I am talking about. Check it out now! You'll find that missing gear.

Agree? Disagree? Who Cares? Let me know:

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