

Peace Collection By Ben Huot

Peace Collection

By Ben Huot

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Peace on earth and goodwill towards men

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Heart of Our Culture

The heart is deceitful above all else

In a world full of knowledge
We cannot find the truth
If only we knew what questions to ask

We always want more
In a culture of temptation

In our efforts to solve problems
We created the technology
That tears our world apart

We need to mature a little
And find a way
To make it harder to do evil
And easier to do good

When knowledge is everywhere
And anyone has access to it
It is too much power
To be used wisely

In making power more accessible
More of us become irresponsible

I think God really is guiding history
We will eventually realize
That we cannot solve our problems without Him

People often talk about
How our culture is individualistic
But our problems are more

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Than a lack of community

We still have all the negatives
Of conforming to what others think

We are being conditioned
To fit a certain mold

The government wants us fat and lazy
Not just so we will buy more stuff
But that we will never think critically

The thing that scare our leaders most
Is the possibility of them becoming irrelevant

Just like the Roman Empire
In Western Europe
Gradually lost influence
With the only thing left
Was the Roman Catholic Church

And after the Reformation
Napoleon looting the churches
And the dissolution of the Jesuits
Not much was left of it either

Religion will always be relevant
Some things in scripture
Probably make more sense today
Then they were for generations
Preceding us back millennia

I am learning much more
About spiritual things
And about our culture
That I never put together

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Quite so clearly before

We struggle so much
To answer our own questions
And meet our own needs
That others around us are irrelevant

In a society free to do
Whatever they want
People have no idea
What to do with their freedom

For centuries it was possible
For one person to learn all the knowledge
That was known in their part of the world

Now we can never even completely read one book
We spend so much time
Sifting through information
That we never learn anything

We all collect a huge amount
Of meaningless information

Soon everyone will know
Not just what we have done
But what it is predicted we will do
Based on some very simplistic and flawed models

Everyone who wants to will get this information
But first to law enforcement
You will be arrested and denied basic services
For what your thoughts are

It is hard to imagine
How people who want to say anything

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Regardless of the consequences
And force others to listen to them

Are going to justify this
As progress and freedom
And some kind of family value

As the basis for America
Changes to the point
Those who founded it
Could no longer recognize it

We should stop lecturing other cultures
About how humane we are
And how we are so much better
Than everyone else morally

A certain segment of the population
That doesn't want to stop fighting wars
But won't sign up to fight them
And sees a military or police solution
To every problem

Is going to realize
That the government has used them
And is now dumping them
Now that they are no longer needed

We think of America
As being free of propaganda
Or that it has only been this way recently
When their rivals are in power

But we are taught this
Like propaganda is spread

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The business of America is business
In many people's minds
And advertising is now the same as surveillance

When you monitor society
To the degree that we do now
The government has not trusted us
For a very long time now

Maybe if our leaders listened
To certain parts of the government
That were designed to aid
In the decision making of our leaders
We would be in a better position today

But being educated today
Is seen as a sign of corruption

Business men are trusted more
Than people who dedicate their lives
To public service

It boggles the mind so see
How those with all the power
Seem to think they are being persecuted

When the weak and powerless
Sometimes hear some news
That gives them hope

Maybe if we were less aggressive
With our methods in expanding our influence
We would be less angry at each other

Forever War

All wars are evil

Bombs from your people
Hurt your rivals
As much as bombs from your rivals
Hurt your people

We are insulated from this reality
Because a few of our people
Suffer greatly
And make our opponents
Suffer greatly

We own the world
We won it with violence and deception
As every other empire has

When we want to be wealthy
And this is how we can live as we now do
This is the same as thinking others
Should live in greater poverty
Than the poorest in our homeland
Because there are always limited resources

One percent of the population
Now has literally half of the world's wealth

Many fear losing our wealth and power to China
But we face much greater threats
From global warming
To social and political divisions
In our homeland

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We are our own worst enemies
The rest of the world combined
Cannot even get a small number of troops over here
Even if we had no military, intelligence services, or widespread
machine gun possession

I know a little about paranoia
As that is one of my greatest
Symptoms of having Schizophrenia
It is painful, lonely, and exhausting
To constantly be afraid of irrational things

When we get so worked up
Over things so unlikely to happen to us
We suffer ourselves for no reason

It does not hurt our rivals
In fact our rivals want us to fear them
That is how the tactic of terrorism works

Only cultures that have no chance
Being able to defeat their rivals
Will resort to terrorism

Terrorism requires you to do things
You do not want to do for a greater good
The Middle East and Africa do not want to be
Part of our entertainment culture

We are using techniques invisible
To us in the homeland
But are very obvious
In the homelands of our rivals
To manipulate them into surrendering
To our immorality

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Ironically there are many similarities between
The Middle East
And a large group of Americans
They both base all their political ideas and social groups
On nothing but their personal or popular religious views

Both Christianity and Islam
Are not organizations but ideas
They are like most religions
Focused on the deity not us
They could also be organizations
And were at one point

But so many divisions happened
So no person is in charged
So it is a grass roots movement
God is in charged directly
Which as it should be

Both groups believe
The ends justify the means
And both are not happy
With the current social order
Both want to revert
To an early era of history socially

Both are afraid that the other
Will destroy them secretly
Both know basically
Nothing about the other culture
That is accurate at all

Both have a powerful presence
Throughout most parts of the world
One side has already won
Every part of the world

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But the Middle East and Africa

Many of these same Americans
Have an unholy alliance with
Southern California culture

Where you get your information from
So also you get your views on morality

The solution could be
To not force everyone into
The one world government

America was happier in many ways
And was likely wealthier
When it left the rest of the world alone

Certainly Europe benefited when they had
Long standing peace between major powers
That was the tragedy of World War 1

We are now in a very similar situation
Germany was leading up to World War 2
In terms of technology, society, and politics

The difference between these is that we
Have a bigger and wealthier empire
We are also more efficient economically

Real World Peace

Peace is hard work
And it is exhausting
And never ending
The rewards are distant
And often non-existent

But we cannot give up
Just because it is difficult
Christ is called the Lamb Who was slain
Because He accepted God's will
Even though He did not want to
Do what God asked of Him

We need to do the same
The world today is the way it is
Because we are unwilling
To commit to anything
Or sacrifice our needs
For the needs of others
Or to carry out God's will

Especially when we do not agree with
Or understand what God is doing

Faith which all belief systems and theories
Require of their followers to a degree
Means that we accept God's will
Without fully understanding all the ramifications
Because we trust He is doing it for our best
Without full evidence

And He has every right to
As our Creator alone

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The Bible does not talk about politics much
The few examples imply
That we should let God rule us directly
But also that we should focus on God's Kingdom
More than the kingdoms of this world
As they will not last as long

The commands Christ gave us
Are not limited to personal or family matters
If we want to use the word Christian
To define who we are
And Who we belong to
We should at least attempt
To follow the commands

Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, and soul
And love your neighbor as yourself

Part of loving God with all our hearts
Means that we need to commit ourselves
Not just intellectually but emotionally as well
We must seek peace with God and others
So that we can have peace with ourselves

Following Christ means being a person of peace
There is no room to say there is some other way
To exempt certain parts of our lives or cultures
If we want to follow Christ
We need to have faith and be at peace

We have example after example
All through the Old Testament
Of people who followed God
Without understanding about Christ
Or having the promise of eternal life

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Or the infilling of the Holy Spirit

Without any other reason than
God created them and us
And made a contract with them and us
In that He promised them and us
Something far in the future
Which they did not live to see

We have God literally living inside us
We cannot say it is too difficult or unreasonable
Christ already did it by living a perfect life
He told us we are to live perfect lives as well

Christ was the most manly Man of all time
But He was kind and patient
And even submitted Himself
To the rulers of mere people

Being a man does not require the person
To be dominant or aggressive
Christ lived a life we might describe today
As that of a beta male
Strength is exemplified by enduring trials
And keeping faith in the Lord

What people consider weakness
Is not weakness from God's perspective
Our weakness is in our bodies
And the battle takes place in our minds
There is a constant struggle
Between doing what we think is best
And doing what God knows as best

I am a skeptic and an existentialist
So I do not commit myself to being objective

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Nor do I expect anyone else to be
I do not accept most things to be true
That most other people are convinced of

But I do have faith in Christ
Just as many skeptics have faith in the
Reality of the material world
And the study of it through Science

Because I choose to and for
Many other reasons as well
I am a better person
Because God is in my life
I also like the community of being in
The Kingdom of God

God has helped me leave the military honorably
And survive Schizophrenia for 25 years and counting
He recently helped me overcome diabetes
God has given me a great family
And I live in the best part of the world
And I am an American citizen
I was given all that but earned none of it

I sense in my heart that the Creator
Is the same God as the one described in the Bible
And with Whom I have experienced in my life
Through many ups and downs

As an unnecessary bonus
I have never heard convincing arguments
Against my beliefs
God has even had the mercy to resolve
Many of my big hangups with regards to faith

There are still and always will be

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Parts of the Bible I do not fully understand
Or fully agree with
Some things I will just never be able to connect
But that is the whole point of faith

Because God is infinite
The only way we can understand
Or relate with Him
Is through our faith

Many bad things happen in this world
Even to Christians
But Christ told us that
We were never promised
A lack of problems
Especially Christians
This world did not like Christ
And we are certainly worse than Him
So they will easily find fault with us

Many seem to jump to
The conclusion that its God's fault
That we have suffering in the world
But all the problems
We can document the causes of
Are all people created problems

Besides atheists don't even believe in God
So how could this God allow evil?

The real question we should ask
Is why do we not at least try
To reduce the suffering in this world
That we have control over?

We want a good and merciful God

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Who is both kind and forgiving to us
But also one Who carries our our anger
On those we disagree with
This is not rational or fair to believe this

God always was and always will be good
But none of us ever were or will be
And God will have the last word of all of us

Global Pacifism

War and Peace Slogans

Slogan 1

Choose peace
And reduce suffering

Slogan 2

No one wins with war
Stop the aggressive foreign policy
Stop alienating the world

Slogan 3

Wars don't bring peace
Stop the anger
End the suffering

Slogan 4

Stop the violence
Stop the suffering
Stop the ambition

Slogan 5

Politics doesn't solve problems
War makes problems worse
Morality applies to nations too

Slogan 6

We don't need to fight wars
Because we already own
Everything in the world we want

Slogan 7

It is easy to vote for war
When you are mad at others
And you don't have to fight

Slogan 8

We cannot do evil
And still claim to be good
When reality contradicts propaganda
People stop believing you

Slogan 9

The basis of our power in the world
Is that we are good
It unravels as people learn
This was never true

Slogan 10

Jesus died
So wars don't have to happen
Not on our watch

Slogan 11

Another war in the Middle East
Americans think the world is ending
At least they will learn some geography

Slogan 12

When famous Americans
Advocate extreme and dangerous political ideas
The world loses more and more patience

Slogan 13

When someone does something evil
Do not respond by doing evil
This applies to world politics too

Slogan 14

Peace is worth being kind for

Slogan 15

Violence is never the solution
Internationally too

Slogan 16

We want all the wealth
But don't want to risk anything for it

Slogan 17

If we followed Christian ideals
On a national scale
The world would be a much better place

Slogan 18

Many of us want a Jesus
Who doesn't challenge us
To change what we believe in

Slogan 19

Why are there so few Christian pacifists?

Slogan 20

What would Jesus do
If He were a national leader?

Slogan 21

If we had to choose between
Making America great
And Christianity great
What would we choose?

Internal Struggle for Peace

How do I struggle for peace
Within my very soul?
Is not a war I can see
Nor do I have any weapons

It is an internal conflict
We all face to varying degrees

It is a competition between wills
That we need to choose to lose
To have victory over ourselves

I really believe my greatest enemy
Is myself

People understand physical pain
And many also emotional pain
But the biggest fight is
Between God and ourselves

We fear evil forces and the devil
And we should
But we should fear
Our own decisions more

Fighting for our own good
Is easy to understand
Or even fighting for others

But attempting to defeat our own will
Is much harder to understand
Why would a person not trust themselves?
How does the heart divide within a person?

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Schizophrenia is a split
But not between personalities
It is a split between fantasy and reality
But there is a split between
All of our hearts as well

In dealing with insurgents and freedom fighters
We seek to win hearts and minds
God does as well
But rebellion from God is not the same
As endorsing certain political figures or ideas

Not embracing the values of this world
Is a way of finding God in this life

God seeks to win our hearts
Not because He needs to win
He never lost
He fights for us
And He won this war long ago

We are fighting a stubborn enemy
And so there are many battles
Still to take place

We often think getting more stuff
Will make us happy

Some seek mastery of their minds
Through greater discipline
And many think evil can be overcome
By merely trying harder

But serious struggles
Require us to bring God's power

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And authority to the conflict

It is true that the devil is weak
Compared to God
But compared to us
He is very powerful

This is why we need to resist
And resolve our blocks
That keep us from getting closer
In our relationship with God

Many Christians think of God
As a drinking buddy
But the relationship is more like
A really kind Authority Figure
A perfect Father
Or a Boss you can truly respect

We often see these things as incompatible
We need to dream bigger

In seeking victory over ourselves
We must choose God
As our Authority Figure

Many think that God is already in control
So this does nothing
Others think they want to be free

The reality is that we were never meant
To live independently of God
We were meant to serve
And not to lead ourselves

Whenever we think of our rights

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Or our freedom to express ourselves
And raise this preference
Higher than what God asks us to do
This is when we make an idol for ourselves

Most people do not worship the devil directly
In American culture today
We make ourselves to be gods

When we do not voluntarily
Choose God as our master
We are implicitly choosing to serve
The god of this world

God is the Ultimate Power
In every and all realities
But He has given us the right
To choose who we will serve

This is a binary decision
It is not an essay question

There are many way to express ourselves
Even in our faith

But there are certain spiritual realities
Like the laws of physics
That work consistently
Whether we like them or not

So it is in the spiritual world
If you choose to express yourself
By expecting gravity to work differently
Just because you want it to

This is a sure way to get seriously hurt

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The same goes with spiritual realities

Finding Ourselves

We in America today
Think we need to spend our youth
Finding ourselves
And changing the world

We still have that burden
Of telling others how to live

We all want to be leaders
None of us want to really
Put God first in our lives

To follow God means
Putting Him at the center
Of our lives and world
This does not leave a place for us
To stand on a soap box

If we truly want to know
What would Jesus do?
We need to remember what Jesus did
And more importantly
What He didn't do

We do not grasp what it means
To be truly selfless
Or what it means to change
The spiritual world

The most significant thing
We can do to change the world
Is to find peace with God

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Our entire culture and economy
Are based on more
We are never satisfied
With just doing good

We think even when we
Worship God and do His will
We need to affect enough people

We still see the Church
In numbers and dollars

The evangelization of this
New world culture
May take longer than our lives
And make use of other peoples'
Time and talents

It may not be for us
We have to have the humility
To understand that everything
May not take place
In the span of our lifetimes

Each generation tends to
See prophecy in their
Own generation's terms

We cannot see God's will
Because we are too focused
On what we do
And not on what He does

We need to have
The faith to rest
And be at peace with

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What God has given us to do

For most of history
A person would spend their lives
Digging dung out of a horse stall
This is not an exciting life

But it is better in many ways
Because it kept us occupied
And many of us out of trouble

There are not some jobs more important
Than the jobs we try to avoid

We just don't understand
The depths of our wealth and power
And how this keep us
From finding peace with God

Christ truly thought different
Unlike other great leaders of the ancient world
He did not exemplify strength or beauty
He became one of us
To show us how to become more like Him

Christ is still the most revolutionary
Hero of all time
Because He was willing to listen

He was willing not just to obey
His Heavenly Father
But His earthly mother as well

When the devil tempted Him
It was about power
He was tempted with the position

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To really change there world
Like we would try to do

He did always have the authority
To save not just Himself
From the torture of the cross
But from having to live in defeat
In terms of how we see the world

He not only spent time
With immoral people
He lived in the world of the weak
Of those living under His judgement

The society that turned their back on Him
And He took part in their punishment
Through His entire life
Not just on the cross

The most powerful thing
A person can do to change the world
Is to kneel before their Creator

We have everything backwards
In America today
Our first response is to punish
Our political and social enemies
Christ knew we were our greatest enemies

We have an empire built on wealth
We keep choosing to associate Christ
With wealth, power, and arrogance

We have an unhealthy desire
To have the approval of our leaders

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We will soon have to choose
Whether we will put God first
Or our political and social values

Because we cannot choose to serve
Both God and money
We cannot escape the role of servant
Because we serve such a God

It is right that others lead us in this world
And we focus on the next one
We only have one shot at this
So we must put God before country

Volunteering

I often hear how capitalism
Is Christian because it is based
On Biblical principles like greed

This is like saying
Christianity and Satanism
Have a lot in common
Because they have the same worldview

It all depends on who you are serving
Yes the world is a dark place
But we should do our best
To minimize it not embrace it

Realistically we will never solve
The problem of suffering
But this doesn't mean
That we shouldn't at least try
To do what we can

I know the world is a cruel place
This is why I have decided
To make better choices
After leaving the military
To avoid suffering
For myself and others

Being realistic does not require
Us to have a negative or defeatist attitude
About doing what is right
And helping out the poor and disadvantaged

We often hear about just wars

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And having legitimate reasons
For engaging in warfare

When a country goes to war
They have already failed
And everyone loses
It just varies as to how much

A nation with the power we have
And access to specialized resources
Does not need to fight wars
Every decade like clockwork

Getting tough on other countries
Involves some of the kindest people
Having their lives destroyed

We think of how much we want
To stay out of poverty
And how impractical peace is

But when we fight wars
Only a small minority of us
Actually signs up to go

Almost everyone qualifies
Few people can legitimately say
They volunteered but were rejected

The recruiters are flat out lying
And no one lets the Peace Corps
Come into high schools
Like they do military recruiters

The military is filled with wonderful people
Using sophisticated equipment

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And doing very important work

At the same time the risks
Are light years beyond
What would happen to you
Even in some of the most dangerous jobs

You also get paid very little
You are likely to be on government assistance
You don't get most the benefits promised
For a variety of reasons

Some call these people heroes
But it is not an honor
To suffer for ungrateful people
And suffer a meaningless loss
Of good health and safety

Furthermore these wars
Which we mostly win very fast
Have no practical upside
For this nation as well

We are basically creating countries
With no government or laws

And this must not be an accident
As there are many smart people
Leading us into this situation

Many think they can thank a veteran
For their service
And this is somehow an honor

If you want to thank a veteran
Put pressure on congress

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To stop voting for wars

The military has a
Greater and greater difficulty
In finding enough people to sign up

Because so many people realize
Serving in the military
Will not improve their lives or careers
Definitely not at the costs involved

But these same people think
That it is a great idea for other people

I don't think I am anything special
For serving in the Army

As soon as we arrived at Basic Training
We realized right away
That we were nothing special

We were taught not to stand out
No one was better than anyone else

The worst thing you could do
Is to not be a team player
The military does not tolerate
Any form of laziness
Or lack of cooperation

In some ways this reflects
How God sees us
None of us are more important
Than anyone else

I felt God was very close to me

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During the entire time of my enlistment
But this is also when my paranoia started

Shortly after I entered Basic Training
The terror gave me the energy
To make it through all my training

When you think of sending in our military
To help some American overseas

Think of this -
That even our best trained troops
Can easily be captured themselves
As they try to rescue others

The reason for most wars
Continues a cycle of revenge
We are starting to see
The same thing happen
Even in our country

Welcome to world history
We are finally a nation with a past

Why I Don't Travel

When we think of epic
We often think of travel
Of exotic locations
And lots of danger

This is but one way
Of experiencing the world
You can truly understand the world
Even though you never travel

Some of the most important parts
Of almost every culture
Are not the geographical locations
Or how the country looks
Setting only determines too much

Today we have the luxury
Of reading about other cultures
To experience the best of them
In their own literature
From their own point of view
But in modern English translations

Travel is over rated
I learned in the military
That the exciting things in life
Are so dangerous and painful
It is worth it to find a better way

We live in a bubble in America
But understanding the world
Does not require exposing yourself to
People who both hate you

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And actively seek to hurt you

The most important thing
To most people in the world today
And throughout most history
Is who or what they believe in
Which are called religions or philosophies

The focus of religions
Is not on ourselves
But on the deity of worship
Or the ideas of the philosophy we follow
Or both

In America we are obsessed
With how everything relates to us
But the world and reality itself
Are much bigger and more interesting
Than just what we understand and feel

One of the joys of religion and philosophy
Is being part of something greater than ourselves
It brings great joy and peace
To know there are others that believe the same as you

But greater yet to know
That there are worlds beyond
Just the one of the here and now

That there is Someone who created us
And Someone who is both good
And truly cares
To the point that He proved that with both
His choices and ultimately His sacrifices

So as much as we accumulate

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The only things we take with us
Are our memories and experiences
But more significantly
Our relationship with God

We spend most of our lives
Waiting for the next part of life
But there is a time when all the waiting will end
And we begin to experience the majority of our lives

This does not fully begin until after our deaths
But we can begin to experience Heaven on earth
By understanding who God is
And sharing this with other believers

This is because once we choose God
He has a plan for us long before we die
The Kingdom of God is both on Earth and Heaven
The ruler of this world is pure evil
But he is not the Greatest Power even in this world

There are things we can do
That are both greater in importance
And having longer lasting value
Than even studying other cultures
Some of this involves learning more about God
But this also involves sacrificing things for Him

We soon learn this world is evil
For some this takes longer
This is one of the purposes of Heaven
Life is hard

The people who would be fun
To hang out with in the countries
That seem fun to travel to

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Are mostly the rich

If we spent time with
The average person
This would likely break our hearts

The way we treat people
As well as the other creations of God
Is atrocious to say the least

It is much worse in the majority of the world
It is not that people there are worse than us
But that there are costs to our current lifestyle
In our country

Our country is better to live in
Because our trash and factories
Are not mostly in our own country
We will learn this the next few decades
As we bring factories back to the homeland

Also the scale of everything
Has been growing exponentially
So the factories' bad effects on us
Are likely much more severe
Than they were decades ago

If I describe in a few words
Why I don't travel
It makes me sound ignorant

But I probably know more about
The countries I have never traveled to
Than most world travelers

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I enjoy reading about world history, world literature, and world religion

Which are often the same pieces of writing

But going outside my country

Would put my safety at risk

And it would only break my heart

Knowing that our lifestyle

Is based on the suffering of others

I already know this

Nothing much surprises me anymore

Except God's love for us

Implications

God has feelings too.

There are 2 types of people in this world. The ones that divide people into 2 groups and those that don't. Everyone is an individual whether they like it or not.

For the last few centuries, Christian leaders had to defend against critics denying the divinity of Christ. Now the Church seems to be hurting because there is no real understanding of Christ being fully human. We say it in our doctrine, but we do not feel it in our hearts.

We are all sinners and God died on the cross for our sins. This is true. But God did not hate us before that. God hates sin because it hurts us.

God does not just love us in an abstract or general sense. God doesn't see us as the same in terms of our personalities. God has an emotional life too. He has called us to have different roles as there are many different spiritual gifts.

Christ had all the human limitations of having a body and still had emotions and a unique personality and interests. He had friends and He grew up not unlike the other siblings in His family. Christ was tempted by the devil in ways that show He was frustrated by His human limitations as well.

Christianity was and still is revolutionary. We are not meant to understand the entire Bible but to follow it. Christ made things simpler and more direct like in the golden rule and that we are to love God and our enemies as ourselves. God was so concerned about our attitudes that He preferred true repentance over

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sacrifices that He ordered. The law became synonymous with our conscience.

Christ was not talking in riddles or mysterious codes like koans in Buddhism. The reason why we need faith is that is the only way we can understand and relate with God. We cannot get meaningful answers solely by analyzing Scripture.

The Bible opens a huge can of worms. This is deliberate as this forces a spiritual crisis for us that builds our faith. We are to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul.

This goes beyond intellectual understanding and into physical application. If the body and feelings didn't matter anymore what was the point of the festivals of the Old Testament or the rituals of the New Testament like communion and baptism? Why would a God that wasn't artistic have such elaborate instructions for the temple? Would an uncreative God have chosen the sacrificial system of the Old Testament with all the blood and gore?

This is the fallacy in saying that spiritual things are good and material things are bad. The theological implications of this deny the basic identity of God taught in the Bible. You cannot have a second Adam and have a sufficient sacrifice if you Jesus was not fully God and Man at the same time.

God the Father, Christ, and the Holy Spirit all have the same personality. Christ is as concerned about evil as is His Father. The Father is as compassionate and forgiving as His Son.

If the human body is inherently evil, why does the Holy Spirit choose to dwell within us. If Jesus was not the same as us physically and emotionally, then how would He know about all our temptations?

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The Bible and the God we serve go beyond our ability to fully grasp them. We cannot always understand Scripture. Even the angels couldn't figure out about Christ before His birth. The only reason why any of us can truly understand Christ and overcome our pride is by a miracle from God.

Modern psychology comes from the Bible. Christian mystics and other great Christian writers talked about this for centuries. We had the evidence right in front of us, but we missed it hiding in plain sight.

The modern Church has gotten so good at abstract theology that it forgot the emotional aspect of people. We now often confuse sin, which is still very real, with limitations of being physical beings. We are so driven to spread the Gospel and convert as many people as possible that we make it hard for people who are quiet or shy from expressing their faith in different ways.

We are so concerned with people doing everything correctly that we do not give people enough freedom to find new ways to spread the Gospel. We get nervous about any innovation in our understanding of the Bible. Imagine if Christ came today. We might totally mistake Him for a cult leader or a counter culture outcast.

There is amongst many Christians a stereotype that our society is obsessed with being unique. But this is untrue to a large extent. People today more than any other time before want to belong and experience intense pressure to fit in with others. We all are being pushed to be experts or leaders in some respected academic field today.

Many of these ideas that I am criticizing are elitist and similar to an early heresy of the Church called Gnosticism. Gnostics believed that the god of the Old Testament was the devil, Jesus was God but not man, and we were saved by secret knowledge.

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This was an early attempt to make Christianity into a form of Paganism. Today we might call this New Age.

This is likely why there are so many teen suicides today. We are innovating our society into a broken one where there is no continuity or culture left. The Church is guilty of this too. Where has the American Church engaged academia recently? Pointing fingers at the same things their Church members are also guilty of does not count.