

Email to Fundamentalists Aug 2003

Gentlemen: I read most of your comments about the dangers of psychospirituality etc.. and feel urged to invite you to contemplate a couple of questions. I must, for time's sake be rather succinct and frank. Please do not take offense.

Firstly, if God has given us an intellect, don't you suppose that He expects us to put it to some use? I see our enquiring minds as just another of the 'talents' that we bury in the sand to our peril. "Made in the image and likeness of God" includes our minds too. "Knock and the door will be opened" seems to ring a bell too. I hear fundamentalists continuing to hold 'faith' up as the supreme virtue, when it is clear to any discerning mind that 'faith' per se is only a necessary step in the acquisition of knowledge. We have faith; but *only* until we *know*. Ask yourselves please which relationships amongst your peers are the most secure... the ones where you know and understand your friends deeply? - Or the ones where your friend shrouds himself in vagueness and mystery, telling you only always to "have faith" in him? Such 'faith' is only and always subjective, and usually is only bearable as long as we maintain a rather idealistic vision of the object's character etc. Most religionists are not at all interested in finding or understanding the True God. They are content to wallow in various forms of superstitious idolatry, spending all of their 'religious' time seeking out justifications in the Bible for their particular brand of idolatry. If scientists are capable of maintaining a level of moral and academic integrity that is so sadly lacking in religious institutions today, then I can only presume that the good Lord will make use of them. Society abounds with self-appointed 'ministers' and so-called 'Reverends' or religious 'experts' whose only credentials are a closed-minded and subservient obedience to some religious institution or other. You would do well to learn a little more professionalism from the secular world, and begin to learn the difference between education and indoctrination; between truth and fantasy; between love and false piety. Indeed, I see the next stage of spiritual evolution (if you like) to be centered upon knowledge - especially in light of the fact that Christianity, after 2,000 years, with its over 3,600 competing brands of 'faith' has not yet managed to bring substantial peace amongst men - on the contrary, religion, and militant orthodoxy in particular

(fundamentalism today) has been the single greatest cause of conflict, disharmony, and suffering amongst God's people. If the prince of darkness is active anywhere, it rather looks like he is within the ranks of the religionists as opposed to that of diligent scientists.

Finally gentlemen (and ladies too of course if you're still listening) - let me ask you if you have ever seriously considered when religion started, and what its ultimate objective is? Was there any religion in the Garden of Eden when all was perfect and Adam and Eve "walked with the Lord?" Will there be any religion in Heaven? Ultimately gentlemen, exactly what religion IS God? I urge you to consider the very high likelihood that the Creator of the Universe is much more likely to be a scientist than a religionist. When and if His Kingdom ever does come on Earth... we can all be assured it most certainly will NOT be a religious Kingdom. We would all do well to remember the 'golden rule' echoed in 1 John 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar..." (I'm sure you know the rest). A wise man never critiques what he doesn't really understand. This may be good advice for you, because it is very obvious from your defensive comments on the web page that you have not grasped the fact that the essence of all scientific research is to uncover truth. God is Truth, no? He doesn't seem to be scared of silly scientists probing and prodding the Universe to see what's there. It seems to me it is rather like a bunch of inquisitive children looking for their long-lost Father? I feel He is rather proud of the fact that we are actively seeking Him out instead of waiting for Him to arrive on the clouds in some fiery chariot or whatever. Your responses to psychology are so patently fear-based, that it begs the question? Is yours a God of fear... or a God of Love?

PS I have walked in your shoes. This is my ground for offering a critique. I now challenge you (lovingly) to post these comments on your web page. In the meantime, I will pray that your hearts will be warmed up just a little bit.

Sincerely yours.

(Rev.) S.T.Manning. Ph.D