

Not a Lifestyle Choice

Our TV broke and we were temporarily disconnected from 'The News'. I then realized how much of our life had been nagged at by political and media news values so different from our own. Did we really want our life to be disturbed by all those staged arguments on the media? But I also thought: should all disagreements be avoided for the sake of cosy comfort?

Then I heard of the clash in the Daily Telegraph about whether Britain should be described as a 'Christian Country'. I found it hard to support either side of the argument. The description of Christianity, and reasons given for church attendance, sounded just like the views that had steadily devalued Christianity in my lifetime. Taking just one example: membership of the Church of England is now half what it was in the 1960s. Church attendance now barely competes with fishing, as a Sunday activity. As for the views of those opposing the 'Christian Country' description, how could I disagree with them? I could only say: 'The God you don't believe in, doesn't exist anyway'.

The problem with much contemporary Christianity is simple: it sees itself as a lifestyle choice; not an issue of Life and Death. It believes that it should adjust its beliefs, in a marketing activity designed to conform to secular values. These include the view that the truth is what a democratic vote says that it is.

When Jesus asked his disciples: 'Who do you say that I am?' Peter replied: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered: 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.' (Matthew 16:15-18)

The Christian Church is the Body of Christ. She is founded on the firm rock of Peter's statement of the Faith. Meanwhile, the message to lifestyle views of Christianity is the same as that to the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15: 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot.' And the consequence of this is prophesied in the verse that follows: Revelation 3:16.

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