

**General Topics :: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing**

**When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/6 11:53**

Below is the introduction of a blog that I occasionally read. This person is one among many which I have found with the same or similar stories. I don't know if you could classify her life as being within a cult or just a simple fundamentalist element in Christianity or something else. Yet I bring this to the forums attention for a reason. This kind of stuff is beginning to happen alot. When a person's heart becomes like this lady's heart because of her experience and what she says she knows how, how does a Christian respond to such a story and experience? It is my view that all a Christian can do is listen and ask questions to find out where the heart is and just simply prayer for the person. Anything more than that would just really get in the way.

Sometimes I wonder if such an area falls under the category of what Jesus said when he said it would be better to have a millstone tied around your neck and cast into the sea than to offend a little one.

What do you folks think?

John

**Sierra's Story**

I grew up fundamentalist. Twelve years in darkness, twelve years in fear. I lived so close to death that I could feel it brushing against my fingertips. Always around the corner was the Rapture, the Tribulation, the falling bombs, the assaults of the devil. I tried to root the evil out of myself, first by starving, then by systematically divesting myself of the things that I loved. All my efforts seemed hopeless. God didn't want me – or so I thought. It turns out that the root of the evil wasn't inside me at all. It was in the mental virus that plagued my church and those around it. My homeschool community. My world was full of it.

It was the Christian Patriarchy Movement, disguised in a church that fancied itself very different. "The Message of the Hour," the believers in the prophet, the last remnant of God's chosen people. It turns out that we were no different from the others, really. A splintered church, eagerly sipping from the pot of the Religious Right. We absorbed courtship, purity balls, pledges and lockets with keys that belonged to our fathers. We rejected music, we rejected dating and above all the public sphere. Women especially were kept at home, reading Elsie Dinsmore and books from Vision Forum. We bought I Kissed Dating Goodbye and read Zionist novels. We believed we were so very, very unique.

We were part of the network. In my blogroll, you'll see the variety of denominations that subscribe to the Patriarchy Movement. It never begins or ends with just one person. It's a movement in every sense: a rolling wave of beliefs that seek to engulf the United States and finally the world, to re-establish Christendom.

The first installment of my story was posted at No Longer Quivering in October 2009. I am nearly done.

You can find all of the entries of my story here, arranged from most recent to earliest:

**Daughter of the Patriarchy Series**

I have written a lot about William Branham here, the man who founded the Message. I believe he's much less an anomaly than Message believers would have you think. Was it just a cult I escaped from? That's far too easy a dismissal. The similarities are hard to ignore. Read. Learn. Ask me questions. I am holding out my hand – if you are leaving the Message, or a fundamentalist church of any stripe, don't be afraid. I survived. You will, too.

**Re: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/7/6 12:10**

There is not a lot of information given here as to what she is complaining about exactly. However, i CAN say that The Message is GARBAGE. It is written, "Beware of the scribes". For centuries now the scribes have been trying to rewrite the Word of God. Satan has his counterfeit of everything, including God's Word. And The Message is just one more counterfeit, along with all the modern "versions" of the Bible. As for fundamentalism, well, that word gets slapped on a LOT of people, including those who simply follow the Word of God. Trouble is, some families get way too strict and legalistic about it, and she sounds like her family may have been in some kind of cult. I say that because of her reference to "the prophet" and the "patriarchy movement" which i have never heard of before but which sounds, well, like most cults sound. They are all trying to start a new movement.

How to respond to such a person? Tell her "Don't go to church anymore, just go to Jesus". She won't want to go to any church anyway, so just advise her to go to Jesus instead, and get to know Him/His Word on her own by reading it without the trappings of RELIGION.

**Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/6 12:27**

Trekker

What I posted was her introduction link that is one her blog. She has been writing alot about her upbringing experience and that is because it has troubled her so much. What is sad is I have cross paths with many others who have grown up in a similiar way. Quiverful and patriarchy are 2 of the big buzz words that I find in their blogs. Apparently these movements are doing what cultic movements love to do, that is take certain part of the bible, take them as literal as possible and make doctrine out of it. Then abuse begins and eventually some of the adherents die from the inside and once they get out become atheists as a result.

When I read some of these blogs I look for clues as to what they are try to convey and what these systems did to their minds and how they are trying to right a wrong that was done to them. It is very heart breaking for me to read these stories.

**Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2012/7/6 14:17**

deadn- When I read some of these blogs I look for clues as to what they are try to convey and what these systems did to their minds and how they are trying to right a wrong that was done to them. It is very heart breaking for me to read these stories.

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I would pray for her and all the others you have read about. None of the things she spoke of in themselves are bad, its when men/women get involved and then decide what means what and make these teaching that are Biblical a law to be followed or else. I don't follow after Jesus because I have to, I do it because I want to. I do it because of who He is and that is what draws me to loving Him and obeying His Word. I don't follow Him because of what anyone tells me I must do, I follow because of Him.

Can I ask you what are you hoping to find out with all this reading of blogs, I mean on a personal level what is it that you hope to discover and will it help you do you think with your own walk with the Jesus?

rdg

**Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2012/7/6 15:14**

Brother Denny Kenaston would be considered to be in the "Patriarchy Movement".....as a homeschooler myself, there are a large number of people I have seen over 25 years, who have been convicted that they are to have the number of children God wants them to have. My own children wrestle with the "quiverfull" and "patriarchy" ideas and have wondered if this is a cult. Speaking for myself only, I do not believe there is anything of legalism in trying to walk holy before God and set apart from this world...in the world, but not OF the world. This does not necessarily translate down to our children however. If the children themselves, even when young adults, are not truly saved, and totally yielded to the Holy Spirit, then these convictions that GOD put on Believing parents' hearts, are merely rules to them. They are put on from the outside, and it doesn't work. YES - there are surely cases of "spiritual" abuse...but I don't think these are the norm. I know of many families who are just trying to raise up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and who are convinced that modern-day "Christianity" is watered down and compromising. Add to this picture a child's unregenerate heart, or possibly backslidden/rebellious state, and you have all these writings that have turned "quiverfull" into "quivering".....This is just my take on the situation from 25 years of homeschooling a large family. The enemy wants our children, and wants to destroy anything wholesome. I think he is attacking BIGTIME what many honest, sincere Christian parents were trying to do for the Lord in raising up godly seed.....

**Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2012/7/6 15:49**

Rev 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Nicolaitan meaning conquerors of the lay people

**Re: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing, on: 2012/7/6 17:20**

We, I believe, are witnessing the death knell of organized Evangelical religious institutions. These institutions have become like the funeral parlor; it's all dead. They have a form of Godliness, but deny the power of Godliness; the actions of an un-grieved Holy Spirit. Murrcolr sensed it, the reason why; the Nicolaitan spirit of religion; the religious spirit of the Pharisee, the priest-class, and all of their amenities.

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

We cannot serve God without a revelation of Jesus in our hearts; it cannot be from an order of precepts. This can be doubly hard to break away from, when the Spirit is precluded that forces the model to submit in the safe and dependent confines of the family.

This is precisely how the chains multiply within the cults; to break free you must defy the Patriarch; your own father, your own family, and few do. It becomes generational, as in Islam. There, the righteous control is multiplied, and if you rebel, the father has a duty to kill you; to murder you.

Roman Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jehovah Witnesses, and Mormonism all have their families tied into the adherence of orthodoxy. If you back out, you will suffer some form of rejection. Counting the human need for nurture, and the foundation of the family as the vehicle for healthy and spiritual prosperity, it must hurt to be set free; Satan knows this also.

In the Reformation model, the child must lose his or her family, and community to break free; either by direct shunning, or indirect community expulsion; IE: You do not belong. He or she must literally start over in life, and many do.

God only saves the sinner; the righteous do not need Him. A child must be saved, born again, no matter how well he was reared, and that is the great deception worldwide. The religious environment of any soul, even living with godly parents, will not save you. You must be born again.

King David proved this out to a T. He may have had the deepest relationship with God ever; certainly in his day. He is quoted as the word of God more than any other in the New Testament, and was promised the birth father of the Lord Himself. He knew God, and even more-so in his failure.

He bore Absalom, who killed his half-brother Amnon, after Amnon raped Absalom's sister, Tamar, and Another son of D

avid, Adonijah, was killed soon after David died. He was the Patriarch of patriarchs, and holy; Why were his sons evil?

Religion and tradition, no matter how orderly and Bible-based they may be, does not reveal the Son of God's love in the mselves. It may serve as even harmful to some, like Sierra, who was drilled that this was God, and to submit to it no matter what. What if there is no Holy Spirit that gives LIFE?

Often this is the case, for the Letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Living in an orderly Christian life is a good thing, but it may not be if God is substituted by a life-style with it's own traditions embedded within it that say that this is God's way... there is no other.

Children must be given freedom to choose, or they will be damaged. I believe they must be taught that there is none righteous, and not themselves especially, and that they NEED a Savior and their very own witness of their need and the truth of Jesus' willful sacrifice, that saving faith might arise and they would receive Him.

My own Grandmother was saved at the age of twelve, in Alabama. Her heart was warmed while simple worship was sung in a one room country church. She saw herself a sinner, and believed in Jesus, crying out, "I believe!" "I believe!" She was baptized later in the Spring when the creek thawed. She remained a believer for 95 years, passing AT 107 years, then the oldest person living in the state of Illinois.

She passed in the death sleep of the Patriarchs; she just refused food and water, and peacefully slept for three days before she slipped away. Before she did, to everyone's surprise, she would light up with joy, as she spoke with other tongues....still asleep. I believe the Father did this as a final witness and a sign to all there, that she was truly saved, as the holy Spirit spoke through her. He never did before that hour; she was never taught it.

12 years old; She was born again. She met Jesus.

"And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein."

Only sinners are saved; and that is all of us. We all must be born again. A moral and obedient life will not save us.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/6 18:26

Quote:  
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Can I ask you what are you hoping to find out with all this reading of blogs, I mean on a personal level what is it that you hope to discover and will it help you do you think with your own walk with the Jesus?  
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One of the things it does for me is sharpen my critical thinking skills when it comes to religious ideology by dissecting what I read and separating what is probably of God and what is of man in the form of God.

It also helps me in dialogue with them because in the pastor I have counseled with many people in relation to God in their

r lives by listening to their heart first.

On another level I am learning and trying to understand what these sects are doing to the lives of people in the Name of God and how it is affecting their lives. This is why I titled my post the way I did.

I am also wondering about those who have taken an extreme view from their upbringing if their soul is hardened as a result of their upbringing or if it will be death before they can know that God truly exists or not.

It is really a part of my reality to speak. People's lives in the shadow of life and in this case in the shadow of what they are perceiving what Christianity and Jesus is when it is a skewed view.

Does that make sense?

John

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2012/7/6 19:26**

Quote:  
-----One of the things it does for me is sharpen my critical thinking skills when it comes to religious ideology by dissecting what I read and separating what is probably of God and what is of man in the form of God.  
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And so what this woman has written in her blog is of God? I briefly looked at it, it is filled with talk and images about sex.

It is not religious upbringing (even legalism) that kills hearts, it is the love of sin.

In Christ,

Ron

**Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2012/7/6 19:33**

Quote: These institutions have become like the funeral parlor; it's all dead. They have a form of Godliness, but deny the power of Godliness; the actions of an un-grieved Holy Spirit. Murrcolr sensed it, the reason why; the Nicolaitan spirit of religion; the religious spirit of the Pharisee, the priest-class, and all of their amenities.

Murrcolr didn't sense it he had to go through it, I had to experience it the first night I walked into church God spoke to me and he told the "Church is dead and it's time to move on" but that he was going to raise up a people, a people of victory and that when he does this work of raising up the people a lot of pastors are going to struggle because they control the people. The people are going to do the work of the ministry, the people are going to cast out devils, the people are going to take the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

For the next 7-8 years I was in a church, which had a pastor that controlled the people. If any stood up to step out and do what God was telling them to do he the pastor did everything to undermine that person including using the pulpit, any one that had any special anointing or gifting got to a certain level and then was attacked by some accusation from the pulpit. I watched many people's lives get damaged; I saw how people turned away from God. The saddest part was the youth how the life in them was squeezed to death by the constant correcting and reminding of what they couldn't do... I walked out with my family and lost all my friends that were in the church and this was a "Non denominational charismatic church"

"Church is dead and it's time to move on" meaning: the way it was done and the way it is done are longer going to work. The Holy Spirit has moved on and he is going to raise up the people. What sort of people if you want a name "Nicolas" meaning the people of victory if you want a scripture Rev 15:2.

**Re: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/6 20:40**

Hi! DEADn

Ummm, I don't think there is a single person alive who has escaped the inner death which accompanies "religious" ideas and doctrines. All you have to do is read some of the varying ideas expressed in these Forums to confirm that observation.

We have 50% percent of the people in here confessing to all sorts of ideas which are at odds with the other 50%. Then we have 25% who seem to be more defensive than the others. A further 10% who seem to be more accusing than others.

As you've seen for yourself, it can be a complete ham sandwich of ideas in here.

The truth is:

There isn't anyone participating in this Discussion Forum who can honestly claim that they have the truth-an'-nothing-but-the-truth-so-bless-me-God. Including, ME!

That's why this is a Discussion Forum. We discuss and share any variety of thoughts concerning Scripture. But it's not that any one of us can declare that our view or opinion is the irrefutable all-encompassing truth.

For instance, today I read a comment where someone said something about how Christians can sometimes be more concerned about avoiding the penalty of sin instead of the eradication of sin. That idea immediately became a spiritual treasure for me. And, that's why I keep returning here to read the discussions.

We are all wandering around in the desert (so to speak); thirsty for genuine life which only the Word of God can give. So me temporarily stop and rest awhile in a denomination, some chase after every new and exciting evangelist, while others stumble into a nest of vipers.

Yet, God continues to speak to both them and us in this day and hour because He is determined that we should attain what His Word declares about us.

So, this lady hasn't any monopoly on truth and falsehood; none of us do. But she does have a wonderful testimony of escaping the viper den and I'm greatly encouraged and thankful for that.

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When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing  
by DEADn on 2012/7/6 8:53:25

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**Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/6 21:38**

Quote:

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And so what this woman has written in her blog is of God? I briefly looked at it, it is filled with talk and images about sex.

It is not religious upbringing (even legalism) that kills hearts, it is the love of sin.

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It is not a question of whether this woman's words is of God or not. She is simply telling part of her own story of her upbringing in a sect of Christianity that brought much pain to her life.

Is sex not a part of our lives? From your post it almost seems as if sex should not be a part of any talk about God, I hope I am wrong on this. This girl brings this up as a result of the marriage bed and this thing called purity balls. Sex and

gender play important roles in what she is discussing. I only posted what she posted about her background. There are others who post other things as well.

I have often wondered how many other Christian would have compassion on these folks vs. Giving them scriptures to read as if they don't already know them.

How would you reach out to people who have been dismayed with a religious system such as this? Would you be preaching? Would you just listen? Would you do something else?

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/7/6 21:44**

Quote:

-----Ron's: And so what this woman has written in her blog is of God? I briefly looked at it, it is filled with talk and images about sex.

It is not religious upbringing (even legalism) that kills hearts, it is the love of sin.

In Christ,  
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I think this is true. When a person starts getting cold in their spirit all kinds of excuses start coming forward as for why they are in rebellion against God. The more they drift into sin, the more they will despise their Godly upbringing. No parent is perfect, but who can criticize parents that tried to raise their kids up right in this present evil world? I'm persuaded to believe that if we had a true revelation of God, the likes of which men like Isaiah experienced in Isaiah 6, we would not be quick to act like folk that try to live Holy before God are religious nuts and legalists. In fact, when we finally stand before God to give an account of our lives frowardness and high-handed talk will be driven far from us.

Understand that it is Satan that desires folk to forget about the eternality of our actions on earth. He would like to make all of us flippant smart alecs. The trouble with this is that many of us were not raised in church, but grew up in a diabolic environment. We know what real fear is as kids. We know what it is to tremble wondering from one minute to the next if we will live or die at the hands of sin crazed men. I would have given a king's ransom to have had a night's peace in a Christian home.

**Re: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing, on: 2012/7/6 21:56**

I sometimes wished that we never went to Church as a young boy. I was religiously indoctrinated. I had prayed the futile prayer of wishing that I was just an ordinary sinner that had no clue who Jesus was stumbling in a church service and getting saved. Being brought up in a Pentecostal surroundings I have watched sinners come in to the church get saved and go out changed and go into the ministry or do some work for the Lord while those of us who were brought up in the Church remain warming a pew. I was damaged goods. I was a product of man's sermons, man's doctrines and teachings. And there was hardly anything wrong with those teachings, but there is no faith in any of it. And that is what the sinner would have when he came in drunk, or the drug addict who walked away delivered by the power of God and now minister to other drug addicts. Religion had done its work in me, it gave me no testimony.

It was by divine appointment that I had to be delivered from all that and be transferred to a closet. It was there that the painful work of stripping off all of man's ideas and taking on the mind of Christ. I wanted what God had for me, but it was very painful, a dark chapter of my life swept over me filled with confusion, uncertainty and depressions. Who knew that the teachings we held to like Calvinism or any of the innocent teachings that we hold so dear would be a hindrance to my walk with God. Truth must prevail and I realized that Truth is not paper and ink, it's a person, Jesus Christ. Paper and Ink only tells about the person but it's not Truth. Many of you will disagree, but that's okay. Perhaps it's very possible that you might have the same religious spirit that I had.

A good way to know if one has a religious spirit, they will always defend their doctrine. That is why it gets heated in some forums. Religious spirits are dominating the forum.

Jesus showed me in a dream once that He is not in the doctrines that we teach because what we teach is flesh. His doctrine is something that is imparted, it's life, not flesh.

True doctrine is living. It's not head knowledge. It's not acquiring knowledge and then repeating the same thing to others.



When we walk in Righteousness, His doctrine will follow us. I can't express it in the words that I would like to, the only word I can say is that it's alive. What we teach is the deadness of the letter, we think that that is doctrine. That is why these denominations within Christendom are all dead. They all started out with life, but ended up with death.

John 7:17 If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Ah, I like this.

Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Notice how the doctrine and the power of God go hand in hand in these two verses? If it's only head knowledge and no power it's just head knowledge, it's dead.

**Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/6 21:58**

Quote:

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I think this is true. When a person starts getting cold in their spirit all kinds of excuses start coming forward as for why they are in rebellion against God. The more they drift into sin, the more they will despise their Godly upbringing. No parent is perfect, but who can criticize parents that tried to raise their kids up right in this present evil world? I'm persuaded to believe that if we had a true revelation of God, the likes of which men like Isaiah experienced in Isaiah 6, we would not be quick to act like folk that try to live Holy before God are religious nuts and legalists. In fact, when we finally stand before God to give an account of our lives frowardness and high-handed talk will be driven far from us.

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-----  
While I agree with your sentiments the whole thing then presupposes that if you grow up in a 'Christian' home then you are a Christian when in fact it appears you can grow up in a Christian home and do all the 'right' things and rebel from it because you don't know who God is for yourself. Only from your parents but the heart is devoid of God but in the cases of these blogs there comes a strict adherence to rules which adds to the consequences of choices.

**Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/7/6 22:17**

Quote:

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by Approved on 2012/7/6 18:56:00

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I don't often say this because it is such overkill but this post is just awesome to me. I think it is so because the honesty involved in it and the unpreachiness of it. Just very genuine and I grab onto that.

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/7/7 1:45**

Quote:  
-----While I agree with your sentiments the whole thing then presupposes that if you grow up in a 'Christian' home then you are a Christian when in fact it appears you can grow up in a Christian home and do all the 'right' things and rebel from it because you don't know who God is for yourself. Only from your parents but the heart is devoid of God but in the cases on these blogs there comes a strict adherence to rules which adds to the consequences of choices.  
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Denny Kenaston has a good teaching on this very issue. No person can be trained to be a Christian, we must be born again. Yet, there is great value in protecting the mind from the trappings of sin.

**Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/7/7 1:58**

Yes, you must be born-again and parents should express the dynamic expression of Christ in their lives to their children, not religious rules and regulations. The letter truly killeth but the Spirit gives life.

Many people think salvation, righteousness, holiness, grace, etc, etc are things they own because of some confession or agreement they made years prior.

But all of these things are only found in Jesus Christ and apart from Him you have nothing and can do nothing. But the majority of men have taken His word and created a religious system out of it that does not impart life.

Salvation, righteousness, holiness, peace, grace are all JESUS CHRIST. Eternal Life is Jesus Christ. Love is Jesus Christ.

So, tell me, if you are not abiding in Christ, what do you have?

Religiosity is a terrible taskmaster and will strip your soul.

We are not called to give it "out best effort", or work for Jesus "to the best of our ability". Christianity is not about you. It is Christ in you, living through you. You have been joined to Him in spiritual union, but shortly after most people get born-again, they take a left somewhere into the myriad world of men's doctrines and traditions and then the LIFE slowly seeps out of them.

Approved, thank you for your testimony. It doesn't matter if you were a drunk, drug addict or religious person, the important thing is you found the simplicity of Jesus Christ.

Pilgrim

**Re: - posted by Lkid, on: 2012/7/7 3:53**

the "message" she is referring to is not the paraphrase of the bible written by Eugene Peterson but is a potential cult led by William Branham.

**Re: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/7/7 8:49**

John,

I have worked at a Crises Pregnancy Center for fifteen years. Doing so exposed me to all kinds of excuses and reasons people have for rebelling/sinning.

The excuses Sierra give for rejecting Christianity is the same regardless what church one comes from, be it Pentecostal, Baptist, Catholic or Mennonite - the details just vary. This is rebellion, plain and simple and in so doing you will have to look for reasons to justify it. And let us admit it, there will be plenty if you are looking for some but that is no excuse that will stand when you appear before the great white throne on judgement day. God will not allow you in because you were so severely offended by someone somewhere.

Having said all this I will tell you this. The angriest clients I had were from the Pentecostal tradition. They were the epitome of rebellion, the like we did not see otherwise. I have my theory why this is so but that is another topic... I must say this, too, I had married Pentecostal ladies that had about them a sweet spirit - it is good I had them to counter-act the impression the rebellious gave me.

How to respond to these blogs - I think I would just not respond UNLESS the HOLY SPIRIT would nudge me to do so otherwise you would be casting your pearls before swine.

God bless.

ginnyrose

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/7/7 9:42**

John, this topic makes for long thoughts...this is what happens to me, sometimes, like now.

If one examines the fall of man which was precipitated by the appearance and subsequent conversation with Eve, one can easily see the same lies, same reasons given then as what are used to day:

1. "Yea, hath God said?" Questioning God's authority.
2. "Ye shall be as Gods knowing good and evil." You have the ability to discern what is good and what is evil - do not allow another to tell you what it is.

The reality is that God knew more than Adam or Eve did hence his prohibition against eating from the tree. So, we parents or church will work to teach our children to "not do" and "do this instead". It is to protect them from further harm. (Granted, obedience to parental authority will not result in one's salvation, but will make life easier when these rules are obeyed. They will protect you from dangers that are inherent to sin that the devil will later use to trip you up.)

In light of Adam and Eve's upbringing what excuse do they have for their disobedience? Did they have too much doctrine thrown at them? Did they have too much prohibitions imposed on them? Their upbringing was absolutely perfect, absolutely. God gave them only one rule of "Do not"; God would walk with them in the cool of the day. So what was their excuse? The devil appealed to them by appealing to their desire to be like God, knowing good and evil. Ahhhh. Sound familiar? "I know more and better than these old folks do..." Oh! really?

If one examines the dynamics of the devil's logic and Eve's acquiesce to it, one can see how the devil has not changed

his tactics at all in the years since and man is just as gullible today as he was back then.

God bless.

ginnyrose

**Re: When a person's heart dies from religious upbringing - posted by learn (), on: 2012/7/7 10:36**

Pray for them and love them.

**Thrown off my horse., on: 2012/7/7 11:08**

"True doctrine is living. It's not head knowledge. It's not acquiring knowledge and then repeating the same thing to others.

When we walk in Righteousness, His doctrine will follow us. I can't express it in the words that I would like to, the only word I can say is that it's alive." Approved.

I think you communicated something Approved that struck the heart of the issue. I think that the mainstay of the war on the church is expressed in your post; THE WAR AGAINST THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT; and their Priest class that defends it. These are offended in everything that speaks of freedom, for they cannot control freedom.

It may appear in religious mothers and fathers, or siblings, and in the end, you will be hated if you do not submit. It is the one and same spirit that hated and murdered Jesus.

Jesus said something very interesting about this issue;

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

I have seen children converted to this hateful religious idea, and many, many young men desiring the "ministry" and the pulpit. Today, they are filled with hate; they are separate, and through pride and ambition see themselves above and qualified; They have become twice so compared to those who fathered them.

This may happen in families too. Once bitten by this snake, it's hard to get well. The ideas of dogma, be it corporate, or individualized, tend to be cemented in the personality as a protective fortress, and the attack on anything that may deny it must be vigorous.

This always amazes me, when I see this uncovered. Pure venom arises, and it seems that those affected are entirely ignorant of it; it seems entirely right in their eyes to attack; it is the spirit of murder.

The only way out of this religious bondage is to be broken by the Holy Spirit, and deep repentance to God. This means you must desire Jesus more than your ambition and pride. I think that the children affected by this dark spirit will have an opportunity to see themselves as they are.

Probably no one in the Bible was more possessed of this spirit than Saul of Tarsus. He personified what religion is all about; "torture and kill 'em all!" By Sovereign Grace he was thrown to the ground, shocked and blinded...when He realized Who he hated through his ambition and zeal.

He then sought the lowest seat, not the highest; he became the ministry of the Holy Spirit, loving and guiding from the bottom, not the top. Are we willing to be just another brother or sister? and put on the towel to wash feet?

This happens in every soul who has been delivered from this spirit. They are broken and humbled and the scales come off their eyes. All must come here who really want Him.

Once the Lord spoke to me in a very clear tone; "Do you really want Me?" It is a lifetime word to me. Am I willing to lay down my ambition to be someone?...to receive the praises of men, or their commendations as justifying my ministry?...or are you willing to lay down your mother or your fathers teaching to find Him?

It must be so for us all.

A very deep and inspiring post Approved, and it ministered to me much. Thank you.

Ginnyrose: I enjoy your thoughts and insights. Thanks.

**Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/7/7 11:27**

Very interesting thread John! Excellent post Approved! Enjoyed both of your posts brothertom! Also some others!

Religion is deadly and very abusive to others who have a heart and mind of their own. I wouldn't want to be involved in any group whom their leaders and members try and control others. There are groups who tell their people they must dress a certain way. They must conform to certain standards or they will be shunned. They teach their children to conform to all their convictions without even allowing the Holy Spirit to convict them in their own walk with God. They love to keep people in bondage. The bible teaches where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. We are supposed to forbear with one another in Love. The letter kills but the Spirit gives life.

Sad to say, there are groups who are practicing witchcraft on their people by controlling them with fear and telling them that if they don't conform to their teachings they will be shunned or even excommunicated. We should be leading people in the love of the Lord. God hates legalism as much as he hates sin, because both of them are deadly.

There are groups who strain at gnats and swallow camels. They are more concerned with the outward appearance than the inner man. They are more concerned with controlling people than they are with believing that the Holy Spirit will teach, lead, and guide others into all truth. They try more at being the Holy Ghost toward others than in submitting to the Holy Spirit's leading and timing in another person's life.

It is almost like some are misinterpreting John 3:16 where he says "God so loved the world that he gave" to read like "God so hated sin". It's like God's hatred for sin is greater than His love for people. If God's hatred for sin was greater than his love for people then He would have never sent His Son to His sacrificial death on the cross. He would have never put up with all the past sins in any of us. We forget sometimes that we all have a past that would have put us in hell a long time ago, if it was not the grace and mercy of our Loving heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings to all...from brother rbanks

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2012/7/7 13:18**

Quote:  
-----One of the things it does for me is sharpen my critical thinking skills when it comes to religious ideology by dissecting what I read and separating what is probably of God and what is of man in the form of God.  
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Quote:  
-----It is not a question of whether this woman's words is of God or not. She is simply telling part of her own story of her upbringing in a sect of Christianity that brought much pain to her life  
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Brother, help me to understand your point of view, I can't seem to reconcile these two statements of yours that I have quoted above.

This young woman claims to be Christian and she is therefore expressing her religious ideology in her blog. So why not

sharpen your critical thinking skills when it comes to her ideology?

In just a brief examination of her blog I see that she is currently engaging in sex outside of marriage and she also seems to endorse homosexual behavior(although not a lesbian herself). Therefore, this seems to be a woman who is in rebellion against God and not just some legalistic upbringing.

In case you're wondering, I'm not involved in the quiverfull/patriarchy movement, I'm just concerned that she is portrayed as the "victim" here and her writings are given a hearing when it appears that she is willingly outside the will of God.

Yes, we should pray for her, and for her parents for that matter, whether legalists or not, they must be hurting when they see their daughter in rebellion. How would I reach out to her? I think Ginnyrose put it best, and I quote, "I think I would just not respond UNLESS the HOLY SPIRIT would nudge me to do so otherwise you would be casting your pearls before swine."

In Christ,

Ron