



Wow!!! What a way to start an essay. I have entitled this essay an interesting title, "True Christianity." It is a discussion on what the true church and Christianity should be today. Okay. What do I mean by that? I am not saying that I have all the answers and that my way of thinking is the real truth of what our faith should be. However, there are some things that we must review and make sure of concerning what true faith is concerning the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

In many churches today, we seem to have put aside the true basis of what our faith must be. To put it bluntly and succinctly, our faith must be in the God the Father, Jesus, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit. Yes, I know that there are other things but basically that is what our faith is. Our faith should not be necessarily in the church that we belong to or where we are going. Our faith must never waver. Our faith must simply be only in God and in who He is. I think I said it a couple of times so that you "catch my drift."

Our faith must be in God the Father, through the blood of Jesus and because I believe in Jesus and all that He did, He now has given me the Holy Spirit to help lead, guide and direct my life in service back unto our God. We need to listen to what Jesus had told us when He came and did dwell upon this earth. We need to truly allow the Holy Spirit to truly lead, guide and direct us all. That sometimes gets lost in our "religion." It sometimes gets lost in our preaching. Sometimes it gets lost in our living the lifestyle that we need to be living now as children of God upon this earth.

Now, I know that what I just said is a mouthful and may be hard for many to grasp and understand. Sometimes, it is difficult for me to fully grasp. As many of you know, I was involved in a ministry for about 35 years. It was a good ministry and we did many things unto the Lord. However, there came a time for me to leave that ministry. It was at that time that I truly sought the Lord and asked Him, What was next?

The main thing that God did and what I truly believe we all must do is that He took me back to His Word. He took me through all the things I thought I knew but actually, when confronted with the actual Word of God, I realized that I really did not know the fullness of what God had said; what He was saying now and what He has in store for the future.

As I had previously written in other essays, the most prominent thing that God had taught me was what Jesus wanted His disciples to grasp when He taught them when He was with them. He came upon this earth for 3½ years to re-establish God's truth when it came to the everyday life of a true child of God. It was all there in what we call the Old Testament. Actually, it is found in the first five books of the Old Testament which is called the Tanakh.

I am not negating the New Testament but I would like to say that the New Testament never said that we were ever to forget and throw away the writings that we now call the Old Testament. That, I believe, is a mistake that many are making in this hour. If we look closely at the New Testament we see that Jesus along with the other writers, are simply clarifying what was written in the Old Testament into what Father, God actually was telling His people.

We know the Hebrew people were picked for no other reason than God wanted them to be a people that He would work in and through so that the world would see the correct ways that the true people of God should live being led by Him. We know that Abraham did come from Adam through the line of Seth. We know that as we read the Old Testament, the Hebrew people failed many times.

Then Jesus came. He came to not only to set the Jewish people back on the right path but also to express to the entire world what the right path back to God was. It was through Jesus and the correct way of life in God as found in His Word – Old and New Testaments that we now can have and walk in a true relationship with God.

We know that the Word of God as found in the Old Testament in the first five books which are known as the Tanakh, is basically broken up into two aspects – the sacrificial system and the moral aspects which are collectively known as of the Law. The sacrificial system was the way that the sins of the people were atoned for – by the blood of these animal sacrifices. The people needed to obey the moral aspects of the Law.

However, they really couldn't. Therefore, God provided a way for them to be brought back into a semi-type of relationship with Him. They needed the animal sacrifices to "take their place" and die for their sins (the breaking of the moral aspects) instead of the people being put to death because of their sins.

We know that Jesus was the "final sacrifice" which literally put an end to the animal sacrificial ways of the Law. What we are left with and what are still in operation today are all the "moral aspects" of the Law. Yes, there are still these aspects and promises which are found in the Old Testament, as well as those greater promises in the New Testament, that are very much vital today to all the born again children of God. Actually, they are vital to what our lives should be actively looking like now as children of God.

We see that God tells us in the Old Testament what the two main aspects of the "moral Law" were. He tells us in Deuteronomy 6:5 that we are to, "...love the Lord our God with all our heart soul and strength." In Leviticus 19:18 we are told as we hear God declare that we are to, "love thy neighbor as we love ourselves." God reiterates and tells us that this command. It is just as vital as loving Him. The scripture tells us that God, Himself is saying this as He continues in this same scripture, "...I am the LORD."

In the New Testament, Jesus reaffirms these two main aspects of the "moral Law." He states in Matthew 22:37-40, "...Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind.³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Notice that Jesus tells us that these two commandments are what every other command of the moral law rest upon.

The "moral" aspects of the Law as seen and given to us in the Tanakh (the first five books) are still in operation today. The Ten Commandments give us a more in-depth teaching of what the moral Law was all about. Actually, they are still in operation today within the life of every born again child of God. We must grasp the fact that God gave these aspects of how every one of His people should act and behave towards Him and towards others. God gave the Hebrews these guidelines. However, He knew that they could never keep them. They would mess them up and never be able to keep them because of their sinful nature.

That was why the prophets continually tried to cause the people to look forward to the coming of their Messiah. He would be the one to set them all free from the bondage of that sinful lifestyle. God did send His Messiah to the world - Jesus, the Son of the Living God. He is the one who became the final sacrifice for all of our sin. Actually, the only sin that we are all now held accountable for is the denying of God's Son, Jesus. His death covered every sin, both at that time as well as for us, today.

When Jesus died on the cross, He took that sin upon Him. He took the punishment for that sin in the very pit of hell. But... He rose again from the grave. He is alive!!! And... He went to the Father and offered the gifts unto God, the Father, on that Jewish Feast Day known as "Bikkurum" which is held the first day of the week (our Sunday) after Passover, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread." This is our "Resurrection Sunday."

Yes, that was the final result of God's love being poured out to all mankind. That is the essence of our faith. Jesus was the perfect final sacrifice because He was both 100% God and 100% man, who came to die on that cross for every single person – at that time, now and forever. He took the punishment for every single person. And...He rose from the grave so that every person who would believe in what He did and in who He was would then be able to become a "child of God" and be saved from the grip of hell.

That is so vital for us to grasp. The main aspect of everything that Jesus did was that He rose from the dead. Yes, He died but anyone could die. The part that truly makes us born again is that He rose from the dead. No one ever did that before. When He rose from dead, He became our priest, our High Priest, and offered unto the Father the gifts that were acceptable so that all who would believe in Jesus would be saved.

As mentioned previously, that is the truth of our faith. I know I have said that in previous essays. I mentioned it previously in this essay. I mentioned it here and I will continue to bring it to our attention. As mentioned, that is the essence of our faith. Jesus, who is God, came in the flesh – He was the God/Man. He died and took everyone's guilt of sin on the cross with Him. He took the punishment in hell for all our sin.

And...He rose from the grave and went to the Father to present the gifts unto the Father. Yes, Jesus did come back to tell and continually teach His disciples for 40 days. However, He said it was expedient that He should leave them because only then would the Holy Spirit then come and fill them with His truth and empower them with the power of God for the purpose of bringing forth His Kingdom – salvation, deliverance and healing - to all who would believe. Ten days after Jesus went back to heaven, the Father sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

However, soon and very soon, Jesus will be coming back to this earth. He will continue His mission of setting people free from the bondage of the devil. Every devil will be locked away and Jesus will rule a world that is full of peace for 1000 years. After that the devil will be released for a very brief moment in time. Anyone who would want to follow him will be cast into the Lake of Fire, forever. All those that followed Jesus will enter into the New Jerusalem and be with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

I know that I have written on this topic a few times. However, it simply keeps coming to my mind over and over again. This is why Jesus came. It was not because of the things we do. It is not because of what we made "Christianity" these days with all of the do's and don'ts. No, it is truly all about Him and why He truly came. And most importantly, I now love Him because He first loved me. (1John 4:19)

Jesus came and told us that we all are to be "one" with Him and the Father. (John 17:21) We are to live as He taught us during His life on this earth. The main thing He taught His people was to be "one" in Him. He taught us what it really means to love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart, your soul, your strength and with all that is within you. He taught us that when we truly love God then we will truly love others and when we love others then we will be truly - loving our God. It is a never-ending paradigm of "love."

Well, you may be thinking that I left out or forgot about all the other facets of the ministry of the God. What about the Spiritual Gifts? What about prayer? What about prophecy? What about the five-fold gifting of the Holy Spirit? What about the "Fruit of the Holy Spirit? The answer to those questions is simple – they are all very important. They are all facets of the Kingdom of God and they are all important.

However, they are meaningless and they can become "works of the flesh" unless you are in the proper mindset of truly loving God and loving others. Unfortunately, for many, not all, we have lost our focus on why we do what we do, Yes, we are to help others but we must remember that we are doing all these wonderful things because we love God and want to express His love on to others.

We love Him and are only able to do these things in the power of His might. They are actually His gifts that He is giving to people through us His children. After all, it is God who loves those people that we minister to much more than we ever could. We are simply to be humble servants unto Him and do whatever task He asks us to do and continually point others to Him – not ourselves and not our church – but to Him.

We may not be able to do everything but we can always truly pray or we can do things behind the scenes that nobody sees - but God. Again, the main purpose is that in whatever we do, we must always be doing it as “unto the Lord” so that He would be glorified and so that people would see God – not us. We are simply doing these things because God truly loves them.

We must not be caught up in the concept of doing good works because we may think erroneously that it really shows that I am saved. That is not exactly a bad point. However, we should do nothing that points to ourselves. We must truly be doing all things simply because we love God and because we truly love others. That is true faith in our God is all about.

The truth of our faith is that Jesus died; Jesus rose from the dead; Jesus is now with the Father; Jesus will return. Until that time comes when He does return, we must walk, talk and act as Jesus did while He was on this earth. He is our role-model. We have the Holy Spirit to help us, lead us and guide us in living the lifestyle of a true child of God. We do not need to do anything on our own or with our own abilities.

We must not do anything in our own strength or in our own understanding. We are to do all things in the power of His might and lean not to our own understanding. We must simply turn towards Him and He shall direct our path. As Proverbs 3:5-6 tell us, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* That is living and walking in the truth. That is what true Christianity is all about.