

Truth Should Not be Compromised for the Sake of Those Who Might Not be Able to Understand

by Jim Kenley 4/11/2009

To me, the only people who seem to impose specific religious answers on anyone are evangelicals or conservatives who believe that they possess the unchanging truth. We have been evolving toward humanity for billions of years. Our problem is not that we have fallen from some pristine perfection into a sinful state from which we need to be saved; it is that we need to be empowered to become something that we have never been—fully human beings. The power of love empowers us to be more deeply and fully human.

Real educational engagement is resisted since church has become, for many, a place to be neither challenged and nor within which to grow. The way to eternity is to live fully now. Some feel an inner struggle between the values of yesterday and the rising consciousness of a changing world. Traditional churches are dying today. Until they open themselves to dialogue with the world and allow their literal claims to be challenged, they will continue to die. Half of Americans are backward; a third very backward. They live in the past. Their views seem fixed in their childhood yesterdays.

Others today are looking for a more contemporary view of life consistent with current knowledge about the universe. I see life being lived—love expanding life and people finding the courage to be. I look inward to find the moral and spiritual self and hold my *self* accountable (my conscience.) I look at other people and see the power of love at work. I do not look to some distant far-away place above the stars. Human beings are creatures of both time and space. We know from the work of Albert Einstein that time and space are relative categories that expand and contract in relation to each other. Any statement made by anyone, who is bound by time and space, will never be absolute. There are no propositional statements, secular or religious, that are exempt from this principle. Words reduce all human experiences to relativity. Every religious formula must be questioned; no word of any book is inerrant; no proclamation of any ecclesiastical leader is infallible. No religious system or institution can ever claim to possess the true faith.

Religion is a journey into life's mystery. It is not a system of beliefs and creeds. When it becomes that, it always becomes idolatrous and begins to die. The Judeo-Christian Bible is mythology and cannot be taken literally. I try to live rationally in an irrational world. I accept life's insecurity and vulnerability. Personally, I find Unitarian Universalist congregations offer me the opportunity to explore, grow and be a better person. Not yet perfect. (We tend to fool ourselves.) As a Church home, it is compatible with my Quaker roots—no Creed, free to question and follow my inner- light (my conscience). JBK2009