

Uniformity Or Variety?

There is a Greek legend of a bandit called Procrustes, who forced all his victims to lie on a certain bed. If they were shorter than this bed they were stretched to the bed's length. If they were longer than the bed, part of their legs were lopped off to fit.

Old Procrustes insisted on uniformity, regardless.

In today's society there is a passion for uniformity, our houses, cars, clothes are all trimmed to a pattern arbitrarily fixed by people who have no more right to decide such a thing than Procrustes had to decide how tall a person should be.

It is in the areas of education and religion that the longing for uniformity has done the greatest harm.

This effort to standardise people ignores one important fact, that is, people are **not** all alike.

The idea of equality among all people is totally unrealistic, and any efforts to make them all alike contradicts plain evidence, and flies in the face of God's physical creation.

Romans 1:20-22 [New King James] *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools,”*

It is very clear that the Creator God enjoys variety in form and colour.

Seeking uniformity also interferes with the freedom of choice that the Creator God has given to every human being.

Equality of opportunity should be available to all, after that everyone is on their own.

After years of observation I am forced to conclude that some people simply cannot benefit from an education beyond providing them with the essential skills of reading, writing and simple maths.

Any advanced college or university course does such people little good.

Their years of enforced study leaves them without improved tastes, perspective or wisdom.

Some people can gain a good education from life and the challenges each day brings.

Yet educators continue to apply their procrustean rules to each new generation, stretching and cutting until they achieve a uniformity that physical nature obviously never intended.

In the area of religion things are no better. Within the precincts of the Church, Procrustes is at work until everyone looks, thinks and acts like everyone else.

To achieve this originality must be destroyed, making us afraid to be different and persuade us that conformity is synonymous with godliness and non-conformity is sin.

Experience proves that uniformity almost always degenerates into mediocrity. It is easier to go down to the contented life of the many than to rise above them. It is easier to memorise than to think through. It is easier to imitate than to initiate.

The failure of uniformity has caused people to turn away from the fundamentalism of the Christian Bible as a guideline for life.

Fundamentalism being belief in the literal accuracy of God's Word with reference to miracles, the virgin birth, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ and His Second Coming as King of kings and judge of all human beings.

The Triune God has given us a broad world of Truth for our spiritual and intellectual habitation as limitless as the air to a bird, or sea to a fish.

This vast sea of truth is expressed in physical creation, the Holy Scriptures and in Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of God incarnate.

This vast sea of Truth can be reduced to a creed which may be learned as we would any other truth or the depth of meaning and the mind of God behind the Truth that is more than any human can ever fully understand, however great our intellect, [Isaiah 55:8-9].

In this way we can bring every thought into accord with divine revelation without sacrificing our intellectual freedom.

We can believe every tenet of the Christian creed and still leave our imagination free to roam free through the broad worlds of physical creation and grace, the very character of the Triune God as expressed in the life and death of Jesus Christ being one Person of the One Triune God.

We are free but not “free-thinkers.”

The difference between the “free-thinker” and the Christian thinker is that the Christian has faith in and a relationship with the One Triune God.

Faith in and a relationship with the One Triune God is an extra organ of knowledge which the “free-thinker” refuses to acknowledge.

In this way a Christian thinker begins where the unbeliever hopes to end.

John 8:12 [New King James] *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”*

Jesus Christ as One Person of the Triune God is light to all the world, His presence, in the form of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, [Romans 8:9] illuminates not only our “human spirit” [Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11] but our minds as Christians.

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11 [New King James] *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:” ... “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*

All human beings have been given different gifts by the Creator God to use for the benefit of others.

Matthew 25:14-15 [New King James] *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.”*

Note the words *“to each according to his ability.”*

This same variety will continue in the future spiritual Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 [New King James] *“But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?’ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain, perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”*

Along with the spiritual body will come tasks and responsibilities that are *“according to our ability,”* work within that ever extending created family that will personally give us great joy and satisfaction.

Revelation 3:11 [New King James] *“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”*

What Jesus Christ said to the faithful Philadelphia Church can be applied to all true Christians.

We all have a position of service and authority awaiting us in God’s Created Kingdom if we hold fast to what we have learnt from God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and out of gratitude for what the Triune God has done for all humanity through Jesus Christ, offer our lives to Him to use now.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The sacrifice referred to is a burnt offering for sin, [**Leviticus 6:30**] which was totally burnt up on the altar.

The Greek word translated *“bodies”* is *“soma”* meaning whole life, physical body, mind and *“human”* spirit, [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The Holy Spirit will then re-educate our minds in preparation for our future work in the created Kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

Producing the *“fruits”* of the Holy Spirit in us, which are the very characteristics of the Triune God.