

Should A Christian Negotiate?

Hardly a day passes that the newspapers or television do not carry one or another of the headlines, 'Talks to Begin,' or 'Talks to Continue,' or 'Talks to Resume.'

The notion at the back of this is that all differences between people or nations result from their failure to understand each other.

If each can discover exactly what the other thinks, they will find to their delight that they are really in agreement after all.

At the bottom of all this is the one-world, all-men-are-brothers philosophy that has a hold on the minds of our educators and politicians [with the exception of hard-headed realists of the communist camp.]

Tolerance, charity, understanding, goodwill, patience and other such words and ideas are lifted from the Christian Bible, misunderstood and applied indiscriminately to every situation.

The kidnapper will not steal your baby if you try to understand them.

The burglar caught sneaking into your house with a gun is not really bad, just a victim of this society.

The gang killer taking a victim for a one-way ride can be dissuaded from committing murder if someone will only have faith in their basic goodness and have a talk with them.

All this is supposed to be the teaching of Jesus Christ, which it most certainly is **not**.

The big thing is to "keep in touch." As long as people are talking to each other, they are not shooting at each other.

Such people forget Pearl Harbour!!

This yen to confer has entered the religious world.

This is **not** strange today since almost everything the Church has been doing today has been suggested to her by the world.

Many teachers in the Church have been previously fed with ideas by psychiatrists, sociologists, novelists, scientists and secular educators.

Neo-Christians today base their thoughts and actions on a premise "thou shall not disagree" or a new beatitude, "blessed are they that tolerate everything, for they shall not be made accountable for anything."

It is now acceptable to talk over religious differences in public with the common understanding that no-one will try to convert another or point out errors in their belief.

The purpose of such talks is **not** to confront truth, but to discover how the followers of other religions think and thus benefit from their views as we hope they will from ours.

Can we imagine Moses agreeing to take part in a discussion with Israel over the golden calf? [Exodus 32:1-6, 19-35]

Can we imagine Elijah engaging in a gentlemanly dialogue with the prophets of Baal? [1 Kings 18:16-40]

Can you picture Luther crawling into the presence of the Pope in the name of a broader Christian fellowship?

The desire to be liked even if not respected is a great weakness in a person's character, and inexcusable in that of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The blessing of God is promised to the peacemaker, but the religious negotiator had better watch their step.

The ability to settle quarrels between members of God's household is a heavenly gift and one that should be cultivated through prayer and appeal to the scriptures.

That is one thing but to seek to achieve unity at the expense of truth and righteousness is a very different thing.

John 15:13-17 [NIV] *“Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.”*

To seek to be friends with those who will **not** be the friends of Jesus Christ, by obeying what He tells us is to be a traitor of our Lord and Master as well as Saviour.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 [NIV] *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’”*

Darkness and light can never be brought together by discussion.

Some things are not negotiable.