

# Religious Confusion

**We as human beings seem to have an inbuilt ability to get confused about what are very important issues.**

**It is disconcerting that religion, as practised by most humans in some form, instead of clarifying life too often add to its confusion.**

**Why is this?**

**One reason for religious confusion is our failure to understand that the truth as found in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ is a moral and spiritual thing and not something merely intellectual.**

**Proverbs 1:7** [NIV] *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”*

The Hebrew word translated “fear” is “yirâh” meaning reverence.

**Exodus 3:1-5** [King James] *“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”*

Because Moses was afraid to look on God, God was able to converse with Moses as a friend.

Before the awesome vision of revealed truth, the human intellect should kneel and hide its face in trembling adoration.

**Intellectual pride and the attached irreverence is a major cause of religious confusion.**

**Isaiah 59:2** [NIV] *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*

**Our sin of intellectual pride causes God to hide His face from us.**

**God looks away and leaves us to the deception of Satan.**

**Genesis 3:5** [King James] *“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”*

**Satan appealed to Eve’s intellectual pride and it was her downfall, instantly cutting her and Adam off from God.**

**Religious humans in their intellectual pride believe they can decide what is good and bad, right or wrong, without consulting the Word of God, the Christian Bible.**

In spite of all Jesus Christ said and all His inspired apostles wrote after His ascension, we seem never to learn that the inner essence of truth cannot be apprehended by mental faculties.

**There is a widespread school of religious thought within Christianity that is conceived in intellectual pride and dedicated to the proposition that everything of value in the Christian faith can be reduced to philosophical terms and is easily understood by the human mind.**

This movement is promoted by people who feel that the trouble with evangelicalism is that it is **not** scholarly enough to be able to state its ideas in scientific terms.

**They equate Christian theology with Greek philosophy and the findings of modern science, to demonstrate that Christian revelation is just a result of human reason.**

**This is a form of “*mind worship.*”**

Such thought will do more damage to Christianity’s true faith than liberalism, Catholicism and Communism combined.

**What this school of thought has overlooked is the very teaching of our Saviour Jesus Christ who stated His doctrine in language that could be understood by and accepted by those without high education.**

**Acts 4:13 [NIV] “*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*”**

These were the choice of Jesus Christ as disciples.

**Mark 10:13-15 [NIV] “*People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’”***

**We have to have a simple, believing without proof, mind and spirit to enter into the Kingdom of God, His created family.**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29 [NIV] “*Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him.*”**

**Such humble people are far more receptive to the teaching of Jesus Christ, because they all recognise that they have a need that is not within themselves to obtain.**

**Another cause of religious confusion is the lack of love –**

**Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*”**

Love is the first and major “*fruit*” of the active indwelling Holy Spirit.

**John 16:13 [NIV] “*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*”**

**It is the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, who leads us into all truth.**

**Love and the Wisdom of God, that is the Truth, are forever joined throughout God’s Word.**

**The Holy Spirit will not enlighten an unloving mind and spirit.**

**Without this enlightenment the mysteries of Christian truth will remain forever a stranger to us.**

To the loving mind God gives the Power of immediate apprehension and to **no** other.

**Ephesians 4:1-3** [NIV] *“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, **bearing with one another in love**. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*

**It is the love, generated by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that gives unity not confusion within the Christian fellowship.**

**Unbelief is another source of religious confusion –**

**Hebrews 4:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.”*

**Israel’s failure to benefit from the message of truth given to them was a lack of faith.**

**For an unbelieving mind to tinker with the Truth of God, as found in the Christian Bible, is as terrible as the unauthorised act of King Saul when in fear and unbelief he offered a burnt offering at Gilgal. [1 Samuel 13:6-12]**

**Saul, an unbelieving, unholy man, tried to do a holy act and tragedy followed.**

**From that hour Saul’s life degenerated till at last, deserted and terrified, he died by his own hand.**

**Non-obedience to the truth is another reason for confusion –**

Truth as given to the Christian Church **must** be believed and obeyed.

**Certain truths can only be believed, as the revelation contains only fact and no command or instruction to be carried out.**

**John 14:3** [NIV] *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

**This is a revealed statement of fact that can only be believed,** by nature there is nothing to obey.

**Matthew 28:19-20** [NIV] *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**This is a command that can be obeyed as well as believed that Jesus Christ will be there to empower us to obey.**

**We cannot possibly discharge our obligation to such a passage of God’s Word by just believing it to be true and not personally obeying it, though some may try to do just that.**

**As we can see, there are many ways that religious confusion can arise.**

We simplify our religious concepts and unify the fellowship by remembering what we have just studied.

**Firstly** – truth is spiritual and can **only** be grasped in its full if enlightened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Secondly** – since the Creator God is love [**1 John 4:8, 16**], we must surrender ourselves to love or we will **never** know the truth of God in its highest meaning.

**Thirdly** – we must approach God’s Word, the Christian Bible, with the simple faith of a child, ready to believe what is stated even when we cannot fully understand.

**Lastly** – we must obey the truth as it is revealed to us, trusting God with the consequences.

**When every Christian is aware of the above four principles and applies them, confusion will cease and unity will be strengthened.**