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Companions on the Journey

August 22, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

There are times when I have heard it said that “We all believe in the same God.” There is an unspoken corollary to that statement, namely (If we all believe in the same God then why can’t we just agree to get along?) It is spoken with a view to bring people into harmony with one another. But it just isn’t true. Any more than it would be true to say to a group that was made up of equal numbers of Democrats or Republicans that they all believe the same things. Really? How about a group of progressive or conservatives? Do they all believe in the same things? I think not. How about Muslims and Christians? How about Hindu and Baha’i?

The truth is that we do not all believe in the same things and we do not all believe in the same God. And it is not true that all belief in a God or gods and goddesses is equivalent or equally true. It wasn’t true at the time of Abraham either. God called Abraham to leave behind his former gods and the land in which he lived and embrace the One True God and the land that would come to be called holy. It was not true at the time of Moses and the Israelites. The gods of Egypt and the God of the Israelites were not the same.

It was not true at the time of Jesus. The gods and goddesses of Rome were not real gods but made up gods, made in the image and likeness of their human creators. Our God will not allow us to do a make-over and thus make our God in our own image and likeness. The first Commandment says: I am the Lord thy God thou shalt not have strange gods before me. Any God that is not THE God is a strange god. My friends, there are a lot of these strange gods in our world today. People don’t even call them gods but many worship before them. Success. Wealth. Prestige. Power. Influence. Reputation. Righteousness. Political Correctness. A lot of mini-gods and goddesses which demand complete and total subservience.

Thank God that the Father God is not that. Thank God we have a real God, a God who loves us despite our waywardness and our inconsiderateness and our rash judgments and our lack of forgiveness and our selfish way of seeing things. Our God has a way that is the preferred way to live because our God has revealed this way to us in and through our Lord Jesus Christ.

My friends, it is time for us to open the eyes of our hearts to the truth revealed to us in Jesus Christ and stop all the attempts to rewrite his teachings in a way that conforms to what we think. That way of looking at things is exactly backward. It misses the mark totally even though we can easily find people who will support us in our selfish ways and encourage us to keep on keeping on. There is a wide path and a narrow path in this life. Regretfully the wide path leads to perdition. The narrow path to real life. Let us help each other stay on the narrow path.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry