

Converting Christian People

Jim O'Connor

“The greatest service that could be rendered to Christian peoples would be to convert them to Christianity.”

I do not know the source of the above quote, nor do I know what might have motivated the author to make such an observation, but the message is plain and sobering. Unlike some “cute sayings,” it isn't superficial. It goes to the very heart of the matter.

It is true that too many have accepted a watered down, rearranged, bargain basement substitute in the place of genuine Biblical Christianity. Likewise, too many have seen abuses of truth and viewed it as a fair representation of the whole, thus concluding, “If that's Christianity, I want no part of it.” Well, in most cases, it isn't Christianity, sometimes not even a fourteenth cousin to it, and it causes Christianity to receive an unfair trial in the courts of human judgement.

The “holy war” in the middle-east, the Catholic/ Protestant confrontation in Ireland, the “K.K.K.” here in the United States, the doctrinally divided denominational world, the weak kneed wickedness of “Christian Socialites,” and apathetic materialism combine to give the religion of our Savior a bad name. Denying kinship to all such evil is a must, but it won't solve the problem.

What do we do? I wish I knew an easy solution to the problem, but I don't. What we must do is bring Christian people to an understanding that Christianity is more than an hour of their time on Sunday morning and a dollar in the collection plate. It's a way of life! It's a life of sacrifice, humility, compassion and courage clothed in holiness. When we understand that Christians are a group of people forming a united front against a spiritual foe, combining our efforts in concern for the lost and suffering of this world, then, and only then, will the prayer of our Savior bear fruit (John 17:21).

We could certainly begin with more Christians having a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the church of our Lord. This can only occur as more Christians educate themselves in the word of God — not forgetting the milk while partaking of the meat of the scriptures.

200 SW 18th St.
Oak Grove, MO 64075

March, 1998