

CHRISTIANITY, A RELIGION OF GOOD SENSE

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My earliest memories of religion are of the Presbyterian church with its cold formalism, and of the Assembly of God church with its radical emotionalism. My impression of these two extremes sent me into my teens with the idea that religion and good sense were incompatible. Little did I know that neither of the churches I had contact with were representative of genuine Christianity. The thought that men could, and would, tamper with the teaching of the Bible never once entered my mind.

While it is true that Christianity does touch the emotions, it is not true that it is a religion of emotionalism. It is a religion of faith — faith which comes from hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), or of being instructed in the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15-16). Jesus said, “Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:45). Hearing and learning precede coming to Christ. We come to him because we know it’s the right thing to do, not simply because it makes us feel good to do so.

Christianity is a religion of sobriety (I Peter 5:8), of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7), of knowledge (2 Peter 1:3,8), of conviction (I Peter 3:15), of examination (Acts 17:11-12), and of truth (2 Timothy 2:25). God has complimented us by appealing to our intellect. We don’t have to “check our brains at the door when we enter the church house” as some skeptics yet charge.

The fact that God appeals to our intelligence makes it imperative that we give that appeal a chance by studying his word. Christianity is a religion of good sense, and common sense tells us to check it out.

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