

Some of George Fox's Ideas

Note: Most of the following is 'lifted' from Cecil W. Sharman's George Fox and the Quakers.

1. The true Word may be experienced through the Bible (but 'The Word' is not the Bible) the real teacher is the eternal, indwelling Christ. The Bible is the written out record of past teaching and experience. We are grateful that the Bible has survived as well as it has through the long night of apostacy (Catholic Church editing).
2. Spiritual Awakening leads to the recognizing of one's moral weaknesses, failures, and faults. One comes face to face with one's own hypocrisy. ... Everyone must come through this flaming two-edged sword before they can come into the Paradise of God. They must know this sword to cut down the... earthly wisdom and to burn it up
3. God in Christ, met within, can teach us the way to perfection. Every human being has the capacity for spiritual and moral growth.
4. Spiritual insight is properly tested by personal reflection, by relating the insight to the Gospel, and by conference with the community of Friends. Spiritual insight is not tested by less than that full combination.
5. A Christian must actually 'live in the Light'. The proof of convincement is to live in the Light. Seeking the Light brings to individuals a life-changing power.
6. One does not come to know the Spirit and the Gospel by studying or by philosophy, but by revelation, and stillness of mind brings an openness in which the Spirit may bring revelation.
7. Worship does not need words or outwardly expressed sacraments and rituals.
8. All men and woman are equal in the sight of God; everybody should therefore be treated as equals.

Woman should therefore not be treated differently than men.

People should not be treated differently because of wealth or positions of authority.

9. University training does not make a priest qualified to preach.
10. The essence of religion is not in the careful, legalistic arguments of the preachers, but in personal experience.

11. The history of the Church after the 1st century was a history of apostasy (renunciation of the true message of Jesus and renunciation of the Spirit).
12. Cecil Sharman: “The mercy of God, which the theologians called grace, and which the Calvinists... said was open only to a selection of people, he (Fox) said was open to all. To those who felt trapped helplessly by guilt, he said the Light was as much in them as in everyone else. It would show them what was wrong with their lives, and would stimulate in them the courage to change their ways. Fox did not dwell on the crucifixion as an event. The Cross stood for a ruling principle in one’s life, by which one learned to grow from a self-centered existence to a life of service and worship under the teaching and in the presence of the eternal Christ. This change might begin with a single agonizing struggle, but more often was achieved through small advances, each causing the ‘evil to weaken and the good to be raised up’. To Fox and the Quakers this continuing discipline was the experience of living ‘under the Cross’.”
13. George Fox also consistently counselled that Friends should utilize gospel order when finding themselves in disagreement with one another (see Matthew 18:15-17).
14. Over and over again throughout his ministry Fox preached that direct spiritual experience is the primary form of spiritual experience.

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