

World Peace: A Paradox?

by Keith Miller

World peace is something we all idealize. It sounds nice on paper, it sounds good to friends, but is it truly obtainable?

World peace is, in my opinion, a paradox. In trying to obtain it, we ultimately fail in our goal. The concept is nice, but consider that in order for us to enjoy world peace, we would find the necessity of obliteration of the human race essential in obtaining it.

Change is the important factor which limits this wonderful idea. Everyone has expressed at one time or another the idea of change. Simply by witnessing to someone, for example, a Christian is expressing an ideology he wishes someone else to accept. World politics work the same way. The United States as well as other world powers tries to implement through change the idea of freedom. The Soviets do not choose to accept this idea, and therefore we have a stalemate in which neither side is willing to make the change for the other. How will we solve this perplexing problem? We won't. World peace is the total homologation of ideas. There would be no differing opinions or individuality if world peace was to occur. There could be no other way.

Try to remember that the concept of world peace is only a concept. Like an economic model, it looks good on paper. When applied to the real, imperfect world, it shows its one weakness. An imperfect world cannot create a perfect solution. It just isn't possible.



May I have this dance Mrs. Sullins?

IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP

by Beth McCoy

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." (Philippians 1:27) A lot of things have been happening lately, on this campus and around the country, that are forcing me to take a long honest look at what is being said and done in the name of Christ.

If you've been reading the papers or watching T.V., you couldn't escape the screaming headlines about the resignation of television evangelist Jim Bakker from his PTL ministry. The media has bombarded us with all kinds of information about Bakker's personal life and problems, and this issue has grown to include a lot of speculation concerning the motives and means of many Christians in the public eye. This can directly affect how people look at all Christians, and so this is a matter of great concern to me.

I'm not writing this story to re-hash a "scandal." Nor am I writing it to be judgemental of Jim and Tammy Bakker, Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts, or anyone else involved. Whether or not I agree with their actions is beside the point. If Jim Bakker truly believes what he says he believes (and I'm assuming he does) then he is accountable to God and it is God who must search his heart. I think Bakker knows this.

The point here is not whether you are a "pentecostal" a "fundamentalist," a supporter of Jerry Falwell or an ardent defender of the views of Jimmy Swaggart. If you claim to follow Christ, then you are a part of HIS body, ONE body. . . and no matter how it acts, whether unified and strong or divided and weak, we're in this life together.

Why am I writing this then? Because in the midst of all the



problems, the controversy, the shattered images, I feel we are called upon to examine ourselves.

There are needs in the world the church is not meeting. There are needs on this campus that myself and other Christians are not meeting. Let's face it--much of what the secular media has come up with has more truth in it than we'd like to admit. We are all hypocrites, in one way or another; we can never live up to the standard that Christ's life was and is. The good news is that we don't have to. The grace given by Jesus Christ covers us. This doesn't give us the excuse to sin more and more. . . rather such great love and mercy should encourage us to live better lives in every way, and that includes morally.

Another point: a lot of times when something major like this happens, it does affect decisions. Sadly enough, some people really might reject or accept God on the basis of an incident involving a Pat Robertson or an Oral Roberts. If Jim Bakker falls, they try to take God with him. This is alarming, this is sad; we need to pray that others might realize the frailties of mere human beings and look to the Heavenly Father whose plan is always right and whose timing is always perfect.

I'm not saying that what has happened isn't bad. It is, and Satan can use it as a way to tear down and discredit Christians. But God is greater and He is in control. The bride of Christ is bruised and battered, but Jesus has promised that she will survive, not only that, but she will be pure for her wedding day.

So be encouraged! God's Word still stands. It is still truth. No matter if some of the church's greatest leaders stumble or mess up their priorities. No

matter how badly we mess things up, God is still at work. Through incidents such as the Bakker problem the Lord is helping to purify and clean up the acts of those He has appointed as His ambassadors.

Ambassadors. Not just the guys on channel twenty-seven. You and me.

And here is where I think it's time to wake up and glance in the mirror. We get so caught up in the things that go on in our stain-glassed buildings and television cathedrals, that we forget what we're really supposed to be doing. Sure, our leaders, our ministers, those who are spot-lighted both in good times and bad--they need our prayers. But before we get so upset over their "hypocrisy" or before we start hotly defending their actions, let's see what WE are doing to proclaim and spread the news of Jesus Christ.

I won't deny that God can (and does) use media ministries, be it television or radio. But when Jesus walked this earth, that's not how He operated. No publicity stunts, no cameras. He spoke to people, ministered to people, healed them, loved them, one on one. You think about how many times He directly cared for someone's needs. The woman at the well who was caught in a web of adultery, the blind man who wanted his sight, Peter's mother-in-law ill with a fever, a questioning Pharisee named Nicodemus, a doubting disciple, an insane man possessed by demons.

We, as His followers, need to do exactly that--reach out to others in love, seeing each and every person as a unique individual that Jesus Christ loved enough to die for. It is not enough to talk holy and then just walk right on by the people who are hurting and crying.

When we start doing our job, there will be no room for others to call down the church, to berate it for its hypocrisy. And if they do, we'll be able to answer with our actions.

Cardinal Suhard once said: "To be a witness means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist." We all have a long ways to go before we can match this definition. Personally, I know I have tons of room to grow. But I'm excited because God has promised me that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6b)

He's still working in Jim Bakker. He's working in our teachers and in the leaders on campus. He's still working in ME, and I find that exciting. For: "What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . Not in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8: 35, 37)

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