

DOES IT MATTER?

BY: BRAD CULLEN – JANUARY 14, 2003

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As soon as I say a particular thing doesn't matter... I open my mind to a broader spectrum of truth. Or, do I?

On one hand, to hold onto certain beliefs tightly makes life seem a bit simpler. On the other hand, if I am holding on tightly to a belief system – every time I hear something contrary to that belief system I feel threatened. In that sense... saying “it doesn't matter” allows some new information to enter into my thought processes and I am not threatened when someone says something that doesn't square with my earlier limited thoughts.

Once I allow new information to become a factor I can begin to see things from an entirely different perspective... and can hear what somebody else is trying to say.

Perhaps that is just the way my mind works and I am only talking to myself here. Does that matter? My answer is, yes, to me it does.

George Carlin asks the question, “Can God make a rock so big that He, himself, cannot lift it?” At first glance the question seems inane. Then the question drives me to realize that my thoughts about God are pretty limited. Allow yourself to think about this question for a moment and you will begin to see what I mean.

If I am stuck in a mindset that God is unlimited, Carlin's question could drive me crazy. But only if I have limited God to the limitations of my own understanding. Because I can easily make something that is so heavy that I cannot lift it – logic tells me that God is under the same limitations. Is He? Well, perhaps. If God is unlimited, then God can do anything. If God can do anything, surely He can make a rock so big and heavy that he cannot lift it. A seeming paradox.

Here is where “it doesn't matter” comes into full swing.

Some people refer to God as a she. That used to threaten the daylights out of me. I got past being threatened by taking the stance that it doesn't matter. By coming to the conclusion that what anyone calls God doesn't matter... my mind was opened to what Jesus said about God... and the kingdom of God. “There is neither male nor female there... and God is a SPIRIT to be worshipped in spirit and truth.” Gender is hardly the issue many people want to place upon it in reference to God.

This bit of information allows me to joyfully say that God is the supreme, magnificent “IT” who loves you and me with the perfect love of a perfect parent. A perfect composite of male and female from a human perspective. From a spiritual perspective, male and/or female (or both) is entirely too limiting. And... according to Jesus, at least, God is neither of those anyway... and trying to “couple up” on God is a fruitless exercise... and besides, does it matter? You choose.

What other thoughts do I cling to about God that really makes no difference? What other thoughts do I carry around that limit my ability to process truth? – Eternal Truth? Does it matter? For me, yes it does matter.

Jesus said some things that are startling to say the least. Does it matter what he said? That depends upon one's perspective. What I find difficult to understand is how those that say they “believe in Jesus” pay so little attention to what he said... and when some of what he said is pointed out to them... they begin to make excuses why what he said doesn't apply to them.

Here are a couple of for instances... you are free to take them literally -- or walk on by.

1) “Anyone who believes in me will perform the very same miracles you have seen me perform, and even greater miracles.”

2) “Don't allow anyone to refer to you by any title that implies spiritual superiority or authority. Don't refer to anyone else that way either. You have one Leader and Teacher, ‘the Christ.’ And you have only one Father and He is in the unseen realm of the kingdom. No, you are to minister to one another in the same kind of equality that brothers and sisters have.”

As to 1) above... not only did Jesus say that anyone could be a miracle worker... he also gave specific instructions for getting to the place of performing them. You know, casting out demons, healing all sorts of diverse diseases, giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf... listen... ANYONE THAT BELIEVES – can do these things. Why not you? It really is exciting... but first you have to open your mind to the fact that the silly doctrines in which you believe -- that men have made up -- and keep you from truly following Jesus... DON'T MATTER!

As to 2) how on earth did Christianity take on all these titles... “Father,” “pastor,” “teacher” and the like. Start asking the question of those who have taken on these titles and you will get some interesting information... that doesn't matter -- that is, if you listen to what Jesus said. He also said, “What is the point of calling me, ‘Lord,’ if you don't also do what I tell you to do?” He went on to say what does matter to the point of destruction for those who hear what he says, but don't do what he says. I didn't say that... Jesus did.

Whom do you choose to believe and follow? Powerless men with an abundance of excuses or Jesus the Christ? Does it matter? You choose.

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