

Double, Double

The double, double is what I call it. In Canada we have a coffee shop called Tim Hortons. They made a Canadian slang for coffee called the double, double. Two cream and two sugar. I say that two types of Christians are called the double, double too. We have traditional church and progressive church. One is considered conservative while the other is quite liberal. Yet, both of them say one thing while believing another. The double, double affect.

Traditional church loves to boast that they support God. That He alone, is the way, truth, and the life. They claim love and compassion. Yet, the most judgemental people may be Christians from the conservative side. Don't do this and don't say that. Recently, I have been listening to apologist speakers. They spend their time defending the faith. Yet, it's ridiculously fake. They always say they love their adversaries. That they will come at them in love to rescue them from false beliefs. Yet, while choosing their words carefully, they tend to throw them under the bus. I thought we are not to judge the world? Oh, but we do in a nice way.

Then there is the progressive side. I heard a progressive pastor talk about using the word of God in love only. If there is any judgment or moral accusations towards anyone, it's not of God. God is pure love and nothing else. Yet, that does not explain the existence of killers, war, and sickness. They also claim that all people are born good. It's corrupt society that make people evil. If God is only love then why is there evil in this world? Why doesn't God stop killing and rape? If there is no moral authority and judgment then how do you measure goodness and love?

What does God have to say? The book of Job flies in the face of both of these types of Christianity. Can we call either of them God's church? Oh, they both will claim that title. Each one will judge the other. Who is really right when they both like their coffee double, double?

Maybe they like there religion double, double too. Would a loving God judge? Would a caring God allow evil? To Job, God proved His worth. Job and his friends gave reasons why Job is either good and bad. They all had reasons why God allowed Job to be stricken. Yet, in the end, it was none of those things. God allows what He allows because it's righteous and just. Why little man thinks it's good or bad is in-sequential. God likes a double, double. It's possible for our lives to fit with His will. Just not the way we think it does.

Why argue? Why be an apologist? Was Job and his three friends' theologians? I listened to a Pastor claim he was not gossiping. Yet, he refused to publicly post his sermon for fear of that very thing. If an apologist claims he is not being judgmental, should he argue with an adversary about their view on God? The pastor that says love is all that matters better look in the mirror. He has blasted the other side repeatedly. Is that done in a loving way? We say one thing and do another. Yet, God is not mocked. On earth, I fear, church leaders are mocking the good name of the Lord all the time.

Is there a place for good Christian debate on beliefs? I believe that our theology and traditions came out of debate. However, I get the sinking feeling that there was not much arguing. The truth about God was pretty obvious to most of them. The simple rules on believing are simple enough. That Jesus died and rose again. That He sacrificed himself for our sin debt. The trinity and the promises of God fit together perfectly. It's all there in the Bible. Yet, who doesn't like a good double, double in the morning. Men can't help themselves. One hand is raised to God in worship. It looks so heart felt. The other hand is pointed at those who believe something different. The simple Christian stuff? It gets lost in the argument unfortunately.

It seems we were destined for this mess. People deciding their way is the right way. Did none of these people read Job? Did none of these people read Matthew 5-7? What we think and

do is rarely God's way. If we were honest, would Jesus be embraced these days by the company He kept? Would His actions to wait while Lazarus died be met with approval? Would the turning of tables be looked on as appropriate love or church etiquette? I suspect most of us have double vision. There is what we think church is and who Jesus should be. I doubt many of us could follow Christ the right way. So, we make new ideas and rules to fit our beliefs. Ways that make ourselves look more holy than we are. So that God would accept us? So that humans will accept us? No, I think it's so that the mirror would feel less guilty. Let's face it, having your adversary look guilty is far better than who's guilty in the mirror. Now, how about that coffee?