

The struggle within

In my days as a college student, the American culture was polarized by the war in Viet Nam. Some persons were of the idea that the fighting going on was justified and right, while others felt that the war was immoral and that the United States had no business being involved. Within the borders of our nation, clashes went on at an increasing pace between those factions in support, and those factions who were against the fighting. This necessitated in some cases the calling out of National Guard troops to aid in the control of the situations. The result of this turned tragic one day at the campus of Kent State when four unarmed persons were killed by National Guard troops.

The call for peace is surely justified these days as well, as our society is being gripped by a much more serious situation than the Viet Nam conflict. Then, it was easier because the line of demarcation between sides could more easily be drawn. Now days there seems to be halfway points that make it easier to “ride the fence” so to speak. I am not talking about any physical conflict, however. The conflict I am referring to is spiritual. This is the same conflict which has been going on since the fall of Adam and Eve[1]. Our struggle attacks us at our most vulnerable spot, our soul[2], and must be handled in a spiritual manner. We can not destroy this enemy with physical weapons, we need spiritual means[3]. We find the enemy undermining even that which we were most convinced of. He weakens us at just the correct spot so that we fall in areas we at first thought we were strong and are left not understanding anything about ourselves at all, save that we have failed[4].

This is the point where most people would just give up and cave in, saying “I just can’t keep up the struggle anymore”. Paradoxically enough, this is just the point at which those who know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior can win the battle; not on their own strength, but on the strength of Christ Who dwells within us. We have been set free from the laws of sin and death which govern the flesh by the acceptance of Jesus as Lord of our lives. Now, even though we still must eventually face physical death[5], since we belong to Christ we will not face condemnation[6].

The watchword in the late 60’s was “peace”. That was a noble quest, but only partially correct. What peace is, is 1/9 of the results of finding Christ as Lord. It is a part of the fruit of the spirit[7], which is only found as a result of His Spirit indwelling you. If you only seek peace, you are treating a symptom of the disease of sin. The cure for sin is Jesus Christ.

[1] Genesis 3:1-8

[2] Ephesians 6:12

[3] Ephesians 6: 13-18

[4] Romans 7: 15-20

[5] Hebrews 9:27

[6] John 3:17; Romans 8:1-11

[7] Galatians 5:22-23