

churches

Bertus:

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From: The 1959 Infinite Way Letters, page 114

Joel:

For example, there is not a week of the year that someone does not ask me whether or not he should leave his church or join a church. Such questions should not be answered categorically or with a vague generalization such as “God is love”. There must be a specific answer, and such an answer might well be;

*“Fulfil yourself at your present level. If you feel the need for a church, by all means attend or belong to one”.*

On the other hand, to the question of leaving the church, an appropriate answer might be :

*“No, not until it is definitely established in you that you take this step. When that is clear to you, you will not even ask the question – you will go ahead and act. So long as you are asking the question, you are not ready to withdraw your membership.”*

When you give answers such as these to this type of question, you have not left your student floundering, but have given him something to think about.

BERTUS:

How Joel felt about Churches, Church-rituals, etc clic on [church](#)

Only in English. It is a fragment from "1961 Maui Advanced Work" tape 3 side 1.

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Furthermore:

(from: 1954 Seattle Practitioners Class Reel 1 Side 2 = Monthly Letter December, 1991):

Joel :

Of course, in our lifetime, church and especially the right sense of church, can be a great blessing to us. For instance, we, here, are in church right now. That is: we are assembled in a place for the purpose of communion with God, where two or more can be together as spiritual unfoldment takes place. You are in church when you are at a Center, as long as, you are there, not just to be seen of men, not to do some praying, but if you are there to be all assembled in one place in order that the Spirit of God may permeate you and the Truth of God may reveal itself to you. If you are assembled there to hear the Word of God, then you are in church.

BERTUS

I also draw your attention to the following:

Some of us are led directly, others through other teachings to the infinite Way. The less “intermediate stations “the purer your consciousness and the less you are conditioned by other teachings.

From: “Living Now“, page 19: Joel:

*....they are still engrossed in living their own lives. They have not accepted themselves as a part of The Infinite Way consciousness, and they are, therefore, living part of their life following the Infinite Way and part of it with some other form of metaphysics, or sometimes with six*

*different forms. Such students do not wholeheartedly embrace the principles of any particular teaching, and consequently their consciousness is united with nothing.....*

BERTUS:

Furthermore on t h a t same page:

Joel :

*.....From the moment a student realizes t h a t The Infinite Way is his way of life and has united himself with it, he begins to find t h a t the Infinite Way consciousness itself maintains his freedom for him.....*

BERTUS

What JOEL says is clear and obvious. Now you receive your teaching from The Infinite Way, so let all other teachings - how good and inspiring they may be - rest. If not, such may lead to confusion, mixing teachings together which is NOT good for your Spiritual development. Even worse: it may lead to your "Spiritual downfall".. JOEL calls it "fall by the wayside".

For those who follow this Spiritual Path but are also still member of a Church - whatever the denomination - who feel frustrated and confused Joel had this beautiful unfoldment <the Spiritual life is no wise dependent upon a religious life in the church sense>:

taken from: 1960 Perth Closed Class ... 370A – The Start of the Spiritual Life

Joel :

A question comes to your mind as to, “What is meant by the spiritual life?” And to explain that, I must start by saying to you that it has no relationship whatsoever to church life. In other words, one may be in a church or a church activity and lead the spiritual life beyond all question of doubt, but it is not necessary to be in a church or to be in church activity or to be in any wise interested in church in order to live the spiritual life, because the spiritual life is something in and of itself and has no reference to church life any more than it has reference to business life or professional life; and yet by its very nature, it can be lived in the church life or in the business life or in the professional life or in a combination of these

*But the spiritual life is in no wise dependent upon a religious life in the church sense.*

Spiritual living has to do with an individual and with his relationship to God, and you must understand that he can have that relationship with God on a barren island. He can have that relationship with God in a country where there are no churches. He can have that relationship with God if he had never heard of a church. In other words, the spiritual life does not necessarily mean church life. What it means is an individual’s ability to find his center in God, whether he finds it in or out of a church.