

= 2022-07-08 - Letters to Bishop, Jerry Huft =

== Note to Bishop ==

1. Tell me a bit about your spiritual journey, what brings you to this day?

My earthly great great grandparents on my father's side left Womrath, Germany in 1870 and ended up farming in a small town in southwest Kansas. I think they left Germany because they sensed the principalities in play that would eventually produce the Nazi state. My father was born just before the dust bowl commenced. He left Kansas for a career in the Air Force. He had dreams of being an astronaut, but wound up as a B-47 pilot. When I was born in 1958 he was on the flight line on alert to initiate World War III if so ordered. He retired in Orlando in 1973 to participate in the shadow of Disney's then new dream. Learning about evil in the world, I stared into the abyss of nihilism became schizophrenic and surrendered to Jesus. By that I mean I accepted his proposition that if I would strive to keep the commandments and sell all my possessions and give to the poor and follow him, I would gain eternal life. He hasn't let me down yet, and I don't think he ever will.

2. Why the Episcopal Church?

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church is within walking distance of my home and I have a romantic love of walking to and from church. I don't like cars all that much. I developed a deep love for Rev. Huft in the brief time we had together, and I have a desire to support and commune with the few people who still faithfully attend there. Also, The Episcopal Church in England was of great moral importance to a Lutheran pastor who ministered to a congregation in Womrath and was murdered by the Nazis in 1939. That pastor has been a sort of hero to me.

3. What was one of the most interesting things you have learned during your preparation?

I knew next to nothing about the Book of Common Prayer or the history of Protestantism or church governance before I started attending St. John's.

4. What is one thing that still concerns you, baffles you, makes you wonder about this tradition?

I think that many of the Christian churches have gone off the straight and narrow regarding sexual morality. My readings of Jesus and St. Paul do not line up with the new orthodoxy that God sanctions same sex marriage. From what I can discern that is a very destructive and a very satanic doctrine.

5. When I am with you, what is one question or issue you would like me to address in our brief time together?

I am not sure if my beliefs about marriage will disqualify me from membership in the Episcopal church. From my conversations with Rev. Huft, I consider myself a member of the St. John the Baptist congregation, but not or not yet a member of the Episcopal church. If I am not accepted as an Episcopalian, I would still like to attend St. John's if that is permissible.

== Letter to Jerry Huft ==

Dear Jerry,

I met with the Bishop's representative, Michael Harding, on Wednesday. Today I composed a letter to the Bishop to acquaint him with my spiritual life. I feel some sense that you have held on to this life at least in part to see me

inducted into the visible Episcopal church. I have hopes that will happen, but I did not hide my fear that the Episcopal church is committing a Sodom and Gomorrah level apostasy in its adoption of sexual revolution inspired doctrine (specifically the creeping doctrine that God in some way sanctifies same sex marriage). If I am rejected after that, I am satisfied that is God's will for me to continue worshiping at St. John's in my current status if permitted, or worship elsewhere if not. However the future plays out, I will remain grateful for your friendship and guidance.

Michael

== Letter to James relaying Jerry's response ==

Date: Thu, 21 Jul 2022 18:31:34 +0000
From mkeller@mukappa.net Thu Jul 21 18:31:34 2022
From: Michael Keller <mkeller@mukappa.net>
To: James Rish <jamesrishhoneyman@yahoo.com>
Subject: Confirmation Sunday

Dear James,

I am scheduled to be inducted into the Episcopal Church this Sunday. The service is at 12:00 noon with lunch to follow. I wrote to Rev. Huft about my misgivings in joining the Episcopal Church and he wrote back the following:

Dear Mike

Its Wednesday, July 13, 2022 and its 19 minutes after one in the morning. I mention this because I want you to know that I too am troubled by the replacement of sound doctrine by the current heresies that are swooping though the Churches of our beloved land. I, like you am deeply troubled by the replacement of God's truth by the disobedient pressures of the world.

The problem you expressed is one that has troubled my soul for many years. That's why, I may be able to offer some helpful thoughts on the subject.

1. The Christian church has never been without a cloud of darkness that shadows the Gospel. That's why St. Paul, and several other Jewish men, were divinely inspired to write the New Testament.
2. This cloud of darkness is also why literally thousands of faithful Christians, through the centuries, were martyred in the name of The Church, by the leaders of The Church.
3. Over time, scores of divinely gifted leaders have tried to purify the Church by reforming the doctrines that needed the most attention.
4. Scores of renewal movements have cast their light on the evils that sometimes-overcome established denominations
5. There are no perfect teachers, no perfect denominations, no perfect congregations.
6. But we serve a perfect Savior. He alone can judge the condition of our hearts. At the right time, that is exactly what he will do.
7. We must prepare our own hearts by purifying our thoughts and our behavior.
8. Someone may ask, "How can I go about the business o being purified." My answer to this question is simple. Let Jesus be the center of your attraction. Confess him as your Savior. Then, prayerfully read the Epistles, beginning with the Letter of James.
9. Share these thoughts with others and see what happens. I think the greatest teacher, the Holy Spirit, will give you the gift of clear thought along with a full measure of hope for the church.

Yours in Christ, Jerry +