

University of Notre Dame  
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The Modern Woman's Rediscovery of "Religion."

The above title, minus the quotes enclosing the last word, is taken from a recent number of The Literary Digest. The article it heads tells briefly the story of a social worker, a woman of intelligence, who startled her friends by announcing that religion and intelligence could co-exist in the same woman. Then she composed a catechism of her own "religion", from the text of which we quote one question and answer:

"Q. Why are you a Christian rather than a follower of some other teacher?

"A. Because I believe Christ's great contribution to the religious philosophy of mankind, 'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love on another,' is the surest way to human happiness.

"And because I believe that the story of His life is stripped of every superstition -- every miracle, even -- though I do not take it upon myself to deny His miracles -- enough is left of fineness, of courage, of steadfastness and of hope to make Him the greatest of our teachers."

With due respect to the lady, whose honesty and courage we admire (it does take courage, you know, in such surroundings), we must tell her that it isn't a religion she has discovered, it's a philosophy. And there isn't anything very modern about it; in its present form it is called Humanitarianism. And it isn't Christianity at all, but an attempted substitute for Christianity.

You can't strip the Gospels of superstition because they don't contain any. And you can't strip them of miracles because they are unexplainable without them; miracles are Christ's proof that He has a right to give new commandments - that He is God. Annie Besant brought a "New Messiah" over from India to Chicago a few years ago; when he gave out statements he prefaced them with "it seems to me," or "it is my opinion," or something of the sort. Christ spoke in His own Name; He settled matters, and He gave laws.

You can't take Christ as a philosopher only and be a Christian. Christ settled that also. He said: "He that is not with Me is against Me; he that gathereth not with Me, scattereth." If you are with Christ you take Him as He says He is; and He said: "I and the Father are one." And He was condemned to death for saying under oath that He was the Son of God. Take Him as the Son of God and you are with Him; take Him as merely a philosopher (and incidentally as a liar) and you are against Him.

Christ gave a new Commandment of Love; but He also confirmed the old Commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength." And He called this "the greatest and the first Commandment." Humanitarianism tells you to love your neighbor as yourself, and grows maudlin over those who love their neighbor more than themselves - going so far as to sin against God to give their neighbor a break - but tells you to leave God out of the picture. (The divorce of convenience is a popular example from the movies; the "mercy killing" from the press.)

"Human happiness" is the shibboleth of Humanitarianism - happiness on earth; the reward Christ promised for the cup of cold water given in His Name is the Kingdom of Heaven. But the Second Commandment of Love, the love of one's neighbor, must follow the First, and the First must be its motive. Give God His rights, and man will not suffer. (It is high time, of course, that God be given His rights.)

PRAYERS: Vincent McCann's father is critically ill; John Nagelson's grandmother has undergone a major operation; a cousin of Vincent Narisi is ill with blood poisoning; the mother of Bill Carter, '27, is ill. John Van Etten's condition is painful and rather serious. Two thanksgivings; four special intentions.