

Quakerism
IT'S
Search
FOR
Truth



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121 Wastson Mill Road
Landenberg, PA 19350

Quakerism
is all about the
Search for a Truth
by which to
Live



As *Quakers*, we spend out lives actively searching for truth. We do not think that anyone or any group knows the whole truth.

We do not expect to know it ourselves! We do believe in continuing revelation, that religious truth is constantly unfolding. The *Bible* is one of our primary sources for finding truths, as are the sacred books of, and seekers from all other religious traditions in our world. Other sources in which we search for truth are science and nature, our human history, meditation and gathering in worship in the sphere of silence.

All peoples and many of the “lower” animals need to have guide lines and to hold beliefs. Friends have found that an individuals experience is an excellent and sound place to start. What each of us has experienced cannot be denied by others, although that is frequently done. But each of us does need to reexamine, reinterpret and reevaluate our insights continually over time. Quakerism is both built around and satisfying our need to know ourselves on a very deep level. We call

this process “holding ourselves in the *Light*.” Thus as we become more able to better know ourselves and discover truth within, we are enabled to know both ourselves as well as others more profoundly. This, in turn, frees us to hold all in the *Light*.

The core Quaker belief is that *there is that of the divine in everyone*. We hold that all throughout our entire world are *Children of Light* and all have both the potential and the capacity to live with others and the divine within. Out of this core belief grows our testimonies (formulations that consistently guide us) of community, equality, integrity, peace and simplicity:

- ⇒ *Simplicity* ~ valuing the truths and essentials, eschewing pretense, wastefulness, greed and vanity;
- ⇒ *Peace* ~ living in a way that “takes away the occasion for war,” seeking justice and healing, not mastery;
- ⇒ *Integrity* ~ being whole and consistent in following our beliefs and values;
- ⇒ *Community* ~ caring, connecting, and sharing with one another;
- ⇒ *Equality* ~ being equally respectful to all. Affirming that each is uniquely precious in the eyes of the divine.

Our 350+ year experience teaches us that seeking truth about ourselves and others leads to a place of clarity and unity where all seems right and real. Sharing our experiences and insights with one another is an important part of this path. Its essence is based on our willingness to empty ourselves of our preconceptions and perceptions as we worship with others in the sphere of silence, opening ourselves to our Inner Light. This setting facilitates us to discover truths, enables us to heal, and especially, to be bound together and the world, in love.

The above reflects the discovery of early Quakers in the 17th century where there were seventeen other dissident groups and many atheists. Much of the vocabulary of that era, although the words used may be the same, have much different meaning in the 21st century. George Fox’s, in his famous revolutionary quotation of, “There is one *Christ Jesus*, that can speak to thy condition,” is including those of all religions who have access to the Inner Light and divine spirit with that name and did not mean, as it is today to signify the exalted personhood of Jesus. Their startling discovery was the divine, love, acceptance was for all humanity, not just those who were Christian. It was *universally* available and the word universal has always meant all - for when you put limits on *universal* it ceases to be without limits of any kind!

