

The One-Word Gospel

As absurd as Fundamentalist theology is, they are not willing to let go of it, because they don't know what to replace it with. They are not going to convert to one of the major world religions, most of which are also a mixture of truth and error. They would need to convert to a belief system that they could know for sure is true and reliable. I believe I have found it, but getting there, for me, was a rather long, drawn out process. It involved painfully letting go of the "bad stuff" that I knew wasn't true, and seeking a rational basis for believing in the "good stuff," that God is love and that everyone is going to be OK, no matter what, because that is what love is all about.

You could say that mine is the world's simplest religious belief system. There is only one word that adequately describes God. That word is love. There is only one word that adequately describes how we should be living our lives. That word is also love. There is only one word that adequately describes what heaven is like, and, you guessed it, that word is love. The single word that remains, after everything else is done away with, is love. I guess you could call it the "One-Word Gospel."

Many of us are afraid that the good stuff in the Bible will go away if we reject the bad stuff. The idea is that all of the Bible must be true and inerrant, including the bad stuff, or else what the Bible says about the good stuff cannot be relied upon. But, we are not talking about the Bible here. Instead, we are talking about the living God who inspired the writers of that book, and all other religious books as well, the omnipotent creator of the universe.

What we are left with, when we take away all religious dogma, is a God of love. There is a strong rational basis for believing that a creator God must exist. If this God does exist, there is a strong rational basis for believing that God is qualitatively far greater than any human being. He must, by definition, be greater and better than any of us. Intuitively, we all know that the single word that describes the highest and noblest quality of human character is love. God must possess this quality of character in far greater degree than any human being.

What we don't know for sure about God is enough to fill thousands of libraries with religious books. What we do know for sure about God can be summarized by one word, LOVE.