

Trying to make God fit ourself

Too many of us are trying to make God fit our own soul, rather than the other way around. We are like a simple drinking glass: we are hard and unyielding. We are too stubborn to change our way of life. We look for a religion that we can accept just the way we are now. In other words, we seek a 'liquid religion'; for just as a liquid conforms to the shape of whatever container it is in, we want to adjust our 'religion' to suit our own personal needs.

God's truth is fundamentally and totally different. Think of it, if you will, as a hard, dense ball. It cannot be changed; it keeps its shape under all kinds of pressure; but when it is put into the drinking glass that represents ourselves, and our sinful way of life, we see that at most it can touch in only a few places. Unless we transform our lives to follow the truth, we are seldom found in contact with it. We must become more like a paper cup, so that we can bend our lives to embrace the truth. We must come to God, and bend our lives in accordance to his will. But we continually try to make God fit ourselves. This is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. It just doesn't fit. We give intelligence tests of this sort. How do we know that something lacks something in intelligence? He keeps trying to put the right pegs in the wrong holes. He tries to shave off the corners of the square peg with his knife in order to make it fit. This seems so obvious now, but yet we are guilty of the same thing in regard to the word of God. If we don't like what it says, we 'interpret' it so that it says something different.

Many people wear the truth like an ill-fitting shoe. They limp around unhappy, with blisters all over their feet, but will not change because it costs too much. Now, we can't change feet, which is what must come from my illustration, but I am sure you see my point. We must gird ourselves with the truth; this implies a fitting process. But, instead of fitting the truth to us, we must change our lives to fit the truth.