



QUAKER SPIRIT

Rooted in the Divine

Why have Quakers stopped referring to God?

The new face of Quakers

What do Quakers say?

There is something sacred in everyone.
Equality is fundamental to everything we do.
We find deep spiritual nourishment in stillness.
Faith reaches to every corner of life. It inspires us to work for peace, truth and justice for all life on earth.
"Be examples in all ... places ... then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one."
George Fox, 1656



The old face of Quakers

What do Quakers say?

There is something sacred in all people.
All people are equal before God.
Religion is about the whole of life.
In stillness we find a deeper sense of God's presence.
True religion leads to respect for the earth and all life upon it.
Each person is unique, precious, a child of God.

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The Friend publication of 8th March 2019 printed the following letter:

Dear Editorial,

I suspect that the Theism v Non-Theist arguments will soon disappear completely along with all the God loving Quakers who will quit the Society wondering why Friends House continue to deny their true colours.

This insidious de-spiritualising of British Yearly Meeting and its Divine baseline is saddening to many, especially me.

Why are Quakers ashamed of God and why do Friends House deny this personality change that is overwhelming us?

We are a religious society not a quasi-political bunch of activists-



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It is a pity that the accompanying picture above was not printed in The Friend because it gives a stark and clear image of what has become of the Society.

Within my own meeting we have recently lost a friend of many years standing who has gone to an Anglican high church to worship. He said *"I don't care too much for their smells and bells but at least they know what they are about, at least they understand that they are a religion with God at the centre of it"*

A day after The Friend publication a Friend wrote to me and said:

Dear Stephen

Thank you for sending the images for me to see. I share your concern. Do you know of many others feeling similarly to you? I rarely have conversations with anyone on this subject, but nevertheless happen to know of three people (all completely independent of one another) who have left Quakers because of this.

The answer Friend, is 'Yes, I do, and there are too many of them.'

There is a characteristic of Quakers that they are reluctant to countenance unpalatable truths within themselves. (As our Friend indicates). It seems to me that they have expended all their energy in trying to correct the woes of the world (as manifested in the governments, organisations and institutions outside of Quakers). In the doing of it Quakers have overlooked the personal disciplines advocated by George Fox and similar God loving people.

Quakers seem to say these days *"Yeah, well, God is OK if you like that sort of thing but if you want to have values you can act on, God is not really necessary for this religious society."*

Is it fair to question if we are really justified in calling ourselves a religious society anymore? Have we become so politically 'on message' with justice, equality, inclusivity, diversity, the planet and gender issues that we have no more time for the love of God and so we may just as well call ourselves a social activist association?

March 2019