

A Little Background & “I Don’t Know”

I was born into an American Christian Conservative Evangelical Non-Denominational church. Blehhhh

If that doesn’t tell you enough, then also, in the mid-south and I went to a private Christian school (of the same “non-denomination”) from the starting school-age of 5 years old, for 7 years.

It was after being married, had my child and in my mid twenties that I started noticing the problems in the church. And I say *the church* broadly, as in the typical American protestant-like churches; maybe even some Catholic churches.

When you hear about people like me who find the “faults” in Christianity it most commonly has to do with inconsistencies, contradictions and what we call the gray areas. I had already personally resolved all of that to just common human opinion early on in my life. What I noticed in my particular corner of life was *Christianity/church*, didn’t seem to fix, help or solve problems like the typical stereotype projects that, God is love, Jesus saves, prayer fixes everything.

There are many new cliches. I understand what those cliches mean and they are good, well intentioned and do have some truth. What I began to notice was, there is and was a greater need in people to answer the hardest of their own personal questions in their own personal circumstances and needing immediate hands-on help in real-time battles. Not to mention *constant* battles. One after another. It just seemed and still seems like, troubles never end. Some end up asking, what’s it all for?

So this search has never been for me, about walking away from Christianity but finding what Christians are *lacking* so to speak. In order to do that, I had to back up and look at a greater picture. I also had to stop answering questions with answers. Answers I didn’t know where they had come from. I had to unlearn what I had learned, and am still doing so. I believe it’s the only way to look at the world unbiased.

My favorite verse, since I started trying to find *my favorite verse* has always been: Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. In asking myself, how to do that, then lead me to: Seek and you will find.

I started thinking after time, many of us stop seeking, once we are comfortable with the answers we have and things “make sense”. We find our niche in our groups, services, things to do, help and be a part of a community or gathering. Then time is a factor. After time, many of us develop feelings of things *not* making sense for whatever reason. A feeling, situation, or an event prompts it. Some of us become frustrated or start questioning things.

Is it any wonder? We study the same things, listen to the same lessons and ponder the same questions over and over. If we have it figured out, what are we still seeking? It would be like going to grade school for the rest of our lives. We already know arithmetic, why are we repeating it again? We are not finding something if we are constantly going over it, over and over. I do agree with the living Bible (and other holy texts) being read multiple times and new thoughts and meanings present themselves over time in new ways. But this is *not* what I am referring to. Obviously this is a long summary put short. There are many details in this mix of thought.

A statement that came to me, that I continue to present to myself to keep myself in check is, if we have an answer for everything, then we don’t need God.

That quickly changed my thinking and made it easy to say “I don’t know”, not only to myself but to anyone asking questions that I didn’t have a satisfactory answer for.

“I don’t know” is freeing. It takes *unneeded* responsibility and guilt off of a person. Again, if we have all the answers we don’t need ANYONE.

I then started with asking, where did we get the Bible to begin with? Many people know or think they know the answer but there’s actually several answers. I too thought I knew the right answer. It’s not the wrong answer, but there’s more to it and it’s more complicated than we understand on the surface. Now, go seek!