



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

October 23rd, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: newsletter@foresthomechurch.org

Is Discipline part of Discipleship?

Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.

The classical disciplines of the spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths. They invite us to explore the inner caverns of the spiritual realm. . . . We must not be led to believe that the disciplines are only for spiritual giants and hence beyond our reach, or only for contemplatives who devote all their time to prayer and meditation. Far from It.

Nor should we think of the spiritual disciplines as some dull drudgery aimed at exterminating laughter from the face of the earth. Joy is the keynote of all the disciplines. The purpose of the disciplines is liberation from the stifling slavery to self-interest and fear. (Thanks to Richella Parham, who is on the board of Renovare, a group dedicated to Christian spiritual formation and discipleship (<http://www.renovare.us/>), for cluing me in on this quote from Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* as well as the following quote from Dallas Willard, who likewise works with Renovare; Some spiritual disciplines are: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Confession, Worship, Guidance, Solitude, Study, Simplicity, and Service.)

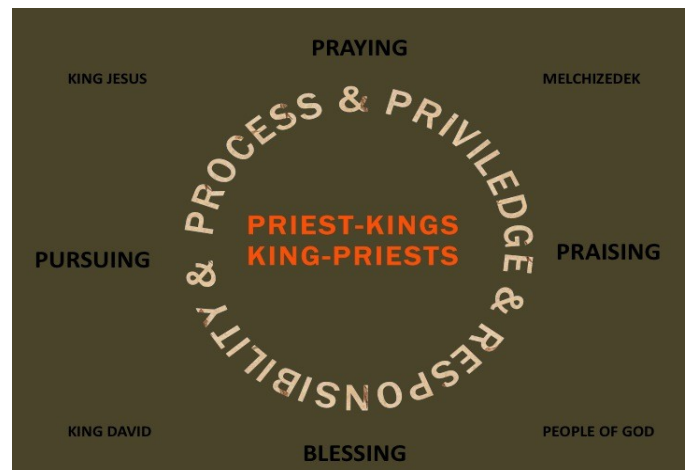


On Trusting Jesus

Our commitment to Jesus can stand on no other foundation than a recognition that he is the one who knows the truth about our lives and our universe. It is not possible to trust Jesus, or anyone else, in matters where we do not believe him to be competent. We cannot pray for help and rely on his collaboration in dealing with real-life matters we suspect might defeat his knowledge or abilities.

And can we seriously imagine that Jesus could be Lord if he were not smart? If he were divine, would he be dumb? Or uninformed? Once you stop to think about it, how could he be what we take him to be in all other respects and not be the best-informed and most intelligent person of all, the smartest person who ever lived?

That is exactly how his earliest apprentices in kingdom living thought of him. He was not regarded as, perhaps, a magician, who only knew "the right words" to get results without understanding or who could effectively manipulate appearances. Rather, he was accepted as the ultimate scientist, craftsman, and artist.



The biblical and continuing vision of Jesus was of one who made all of created reality and kept it working, literally "holding it together" (Colossians 1:17). And today we think people are smart who can make light bulbs and computer chips and rockets out of "stuff" already provided. He made "the stuff"!

Small wonder, then, that the first Christians thought he held within himself "all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). This confidence in his intellectual greatness is the basis of the radicalism of Christ-following in relation to the human order. It sees Jesus now living beyond death as "the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth. . . the first and the last, the living One," the one who can say "I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more, the master of death and the world of the dead" (Revelation 1:5, 18) [Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 94]

Discernment is a spiritual gift

What Scriptures Talk about a Royal Priesthood for Believers?

And you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests** and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel. Exodus 19:6

And He has made us to be a **kingdom, priests** to His God and Father--to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:6

You have made them to be a **kingdom and priests** to our God; and they will reign upon the earth. Revelation 5:10

But they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:6
 Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy **priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. . . . You are a chosen race, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:5,9



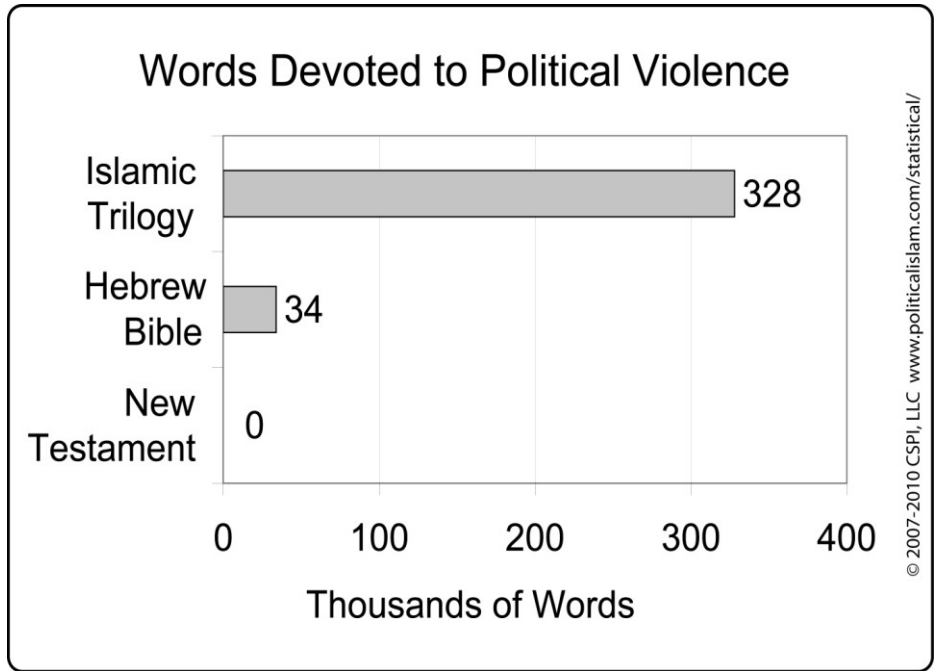
"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." John 7:24 (NIV)

Difference in Degree or Difference in Kind?

Is it really true that the **teachings** of the Christian religion are just as violent as those of Islam? There are very strong opinions on both sides of the question. What would be a good way to test these global assertions? Fortunately, measuring by statistics is one method that helps us see matters on a larger, and often, more objective scale. It would take years to do a statistical analysis helpful enough, but thanks to the eight years work of Bill Warner, we have data for a fruitful comparison. The term "Islamic Trilogy" refers to the three sources of authoritative teaching in Islam: the *Quran* (seen as words of God himself) and the two-part Sunna: the words and deeds (collected as traditions called *The Hadith*) and biography of prophet Muhammad (called the *Sira*). Statistically speaking, the Quran is only 14% of Islam's sacred texts. The Hadith and Sira, centering on Muhammad, comprise 86%.



What prophet's donkey showed greater spiritual sensitivity than he did?



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2011 Calendar

- EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM@the church Intercessory prayer for anyone
- EACH TUES MORNING - 6:30am, mens bible study @ church
- EACH WED - 4:45 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study
- EACH LAST WED NIGHT OF THE MONTH - "Branded" for the youth (Grades 5th-12th) 6-7:30pm @ church

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Oct 23	Lynne Daniel	Oct Austin	Oct 26 Pizza
Oct 30	Mandy Austin	Nov VanderLinden	Nov 2 Sarah/Kathleen
Nov 6	Karen Costello	Dec Christy	Nov 9 Liz/Dawn
Nov 13	D'Ann McAlister	Jan D'Ann	Nov 16 Linda/Lois
		Feb McAlister	
		(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.	