Does God Want Cloned Souls?

By Kevin Ressler  
Columnist

This is an article that has nothing to do with genetic cloning. What I am talking about is personality cloning. Far too often, I have been ostracized or excluded for being outspoken. I have been an outcast for expressing opinions different from those I was with. I have seen this happen to others as well. I assume that I am not the first person to recognize this facet of humanity. It also is not solely a secular problem.

We all know that the world forces conformity. We look at our nation’s history: the Cold War, both Persian Gulf wars, the war in Afghanistan, and all of the other wars, or “military actions” (civil homicide) our country has been “forced into by hate-loving humans who are a threat to peace-loving democratic people all over the world.” This is proof that our own nation takes part in forced conformity. Our world prescribes death to non-conformists.

Yet, that is what God calls Christians to be – non-conformists. Are we? We say we are. We say we are different from those who are not Christian. We say we care about and love other people, especially those who are less fortunate. We say we will reveal to them the gospel. We say we will thing while sitting in plush leather reclining chairs and sipping our lattes bought at the disadvantage of those very people we care about. Perhaps we do drink fair trade coffee and buy our furniture at Ten Thousand Villages in order to help the world’s workers. Do we tell our friends? Do we work towards change? Where are we really? Are we part of God’s kingdom or are we part of the world?

Ask yourself how different you are from Hindus, atheists, or Jews. Non-conformity does not merely pertain to clothes and leather reclining chairs and sipping our lattes. It has to do with life and meritorious. It has to do with life and. It has to do with life and.

We cannot believe as they believe, or think how they think, or read as they read, or write as they write? Even our EMU’s First Year Seminar class plans to teach us to conform to certain ideals. But who amongst us has attempted to share the gospel, has shared it in an open way, allowing for debate? Who has left themselves vulnerable to be told something that was earth-shattering different from their own beliefs? Who amongst us has allowed themselves to be corrected on a matter of faith? Who amongst us has asked, “What do you believe?” while actually listening to what the other person had to say before telling them they were wrong?

I doubt God wants one way of worship. Different people feel God in different ways. Different people celebrate God in different ways. Different people are different, and you cannot expect them to be just like you. God didn’t make us that way and never intended us to be that way. I doubt God desires people to feel constnected and trapped in a way of worship they don’t feel connected to. We must remember that just as we each have a different view of God and how to worship him, other people have different views and ways of worshipping him. Maybe they aren’t forcing their ways onto us, as we do to them, because they have not been taught enough to understand the existence of different perspectives.

My challenge is that we should value our beliefs and opinions with the zeal of definitive knowledge, while accepting probable fault in our own thoughts, thus causing us to never stop searching. When we cease to learn, look, and listen, we may well be condemning ourselves. When we say “I know the Truth,” claiming accuracy in the full extent of our beliefs, which we do by closing ourselves to others, then we are calling ourselves God, thus committing blasphemy.

As humans, we cannot yet even understand our environment or ourselves. We cannot sit at a table and hash out our problems without reverting to barbaric forms of communication, bolstered by technological advances in weaponry. Despite this, we often claim to understand God completely. How can human kind claim to understand the Creator when his creations still perplex us?


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