



Courageous Faith Truth, Traditions & Change

I. Jonah --- Lessons in Following God

Jonah 3:6-10 (NIV®)

⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. . . . ¹⁰ **When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.**

Jonah 4:1-11 (NIV®)

¹ But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ **Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.**"

⁴ **But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"**

⁵ Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, **"It would be better for me to die than to live."**

⁹ **But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?"** "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die." ¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

II. Harley-Davidson & Christianity???

A. On the Brink of Collapse

. . . "people who are new to motorcycling can find us intimidating, they don't know the lingo, they don't know how to get started. We need to lighten our image without losing our edge."

Jeff Bleustine, Harley's CEO

Quotes from Harley-Davidson Management . . .

"Going into a Harley dealership can be intimidating."

"Harley Davidson customers love their bikes – to the point where they scare off potential customers "

"We wanted to take the person who felt like an outsider and turn them into an insider, without insiders feeling as if we were taking away from Harley's image."

"Harley dealerships are filled with graybeards and bald heads. We need some young blood in here"

"Harley-Davidson is a cult brand and that demands a certain adherence to traditions."

"Harley's appeal straddles class boundaries, stirring the hearts of grease monkeys and corporate titans alike."

"We've changed everything without changing a thing"

B. What's Happening Now

Harley Davidson "Live Wire"

"the loudest sound you hear will be your heart racing"

III. What About the Church? ---Truth, Traditions & Change

A. Truth

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hades; the third day He rose again from the dead:
He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God,
the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

B. Traditions---What are we teaching & protecting?

Mark 7:8-9 (NIV[®])

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." ⁹ And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

C. Change---What are we preparing for?

Revelation 21:6-8 (NIV[®])

⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ **He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.** ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

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