

Daily Meditation 05/27/2023

Fascism, Politics, SCOTUS: Institutionalizing Fear & Hatred

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we're talking about the sad and dangerous movement in Christianity today, whether it be called Christian nationalism, or Opus Dei, or Christo-fascism, a term that I first heard from Dorothee Solle, a teacher of Meister Eckhart from the mystics, as well as liberation theology and women's theology.

And another term that she uses, quite parallel, is that of Christolatry. Christolatry.

She compares Christolatry to the mystical Christ, which is living in Christ, sharing the life of Christ, healing, laughing and weeping as he did.

Here are some teachings from her, page 274 of my book, *Christian Mystics*.

The goal of the Christian religion is not the idolizing of Christ, not Christolatry, but that we are all in Christ...." (from Paul) "as the mystical expression goes, that we have a part in the life of Christ. This savior is a wounded healer, and heals so that we can become as he is. Be as he is, laugh as he laughs, weep as he weeps. Heal the sick, even those who, without knowing it, have contracted the great neuroses of our society, who know no mercy within themselves and their children when they consent to the nuclear state and technologies inimical to life. To feed the hungry means to do away with militarism. To bless the children means to leave the trees standing for them.

And on the next page, 275, she develops this theme of Christolatry that gives birth to Christo-fascism.

Christolatry is the opposite of what it means to be in Christ. Soren Kierkegaard practiced this distinction between those who esteem Christ and those who follow Christ. If I esteem him, then I lift him ever higher, and have nothing to do with him; I use my admiration to keep myself free of Christ. He is big, I am dependent on him, yet I do not want to go his way. But if I try to follow him...'Come along,' he says, 'Come along into God's kingdom--to our home country, where no one is beaten, no one is thrown out and shoved away. Look and see,' he says to me, 'and show how the lame begin to walk.' He does not say, 'Close your eyes. Close your eyes, I will do everything.'

So she sets up the Cosmic Christ, the Christ who is present, and the mystical Christ, the Christ that does not separate us from love but is present in all love. Putting our contributions *we* make to love.

This is the opposite of Christian nationalism, Christo-fascism, and political fascism, as well. It is the beginning of compassion.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.