

Concerning such who ignorantly do say that Christ reconciles the serpent, Satan, devil, and enmity; for Christ comes to destroy the devil and slay the enmity.

By George Fox

The apostle said, all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, and having made peace through the blood of his cross by him to reconcile all things unto himself, by Christ, I say, whether they are things in the heaven, or things in the earth, and that he might reconcile both Jews and Gentiles unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby, or in himself.

Now some have said, both ranters and others, that Christ reconciles the serpent, Satan, the devil, and enmity, which they ignorantly say from these scriptures before mentioned; for they say, are not these things which defile a man, which come out of a man, the evil things? And though they are called things, yet these evil things were not in Adam, when God made him, nor as long as he stayed under God's teaching; but when he forsook God, and disobeyed him, and followed the serpent, who taught Adam and Eve his transgression and sin, this brought into his heart all the evil things that come from the heart; evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, sin, death, and the devil, the power of death. And so these evil things defile a man and woman, which proceed out of him, as Christ speaks of.

And Christ was manifest to destroy the works of the devil, and who through death destroys death, and the devil the destroyer, who is the power of death, and bruises the serpent's head, and slays the enmity, and makes peace; and so does destroy the things and works of the devil, Satan, serpent, and enmity. And so it is clear, Christ does not reconcile the things and works of the devil; nor the devil, Satan, serpent, and enmity; but bruises the head of the serpent, and destroys the devil, and his works, and his things, and slays the enmity, as

before; and Christ reconciles all things in the earth, and things in the heaven, which are God's works that he has made. And Christ sanctifies man, who has been defiled by the devil, and his evil things and works; and the old man must be put off with his deeds, and the new man put on, which is after God.. So the old man, and his deeds, and the evil things, and the members that are below, are to be mortified, or killed. So Christ does not reconcile to God, the old man and his deeds; nor the evil things and members that are below; nor the body of death; nor the chaff, nor sins of the flesh. For Christ, baptizes with the holy ghost and with fire, whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into his garner, but will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire; so the chaff and corruption is to be purged and burnt up with unquenchable fire, and not reconciled to God.

And the apostle said, 'You are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the spiritual circumcision of Christ.' So you may see this body of sins of the flesh is not to be reconciled, but to be put off. And God through Christ reconciles all things in heaven, and things in the earth to himself, who bruises the serpent's head and slays the enmity; and destroys the devil and his works, and makes an end of sin; and so through death destroys death, and the devil, the power of death, as is said before. And so it is clear, that Christ does not reconcile the serpent, Satan, devil, nor none of his works, but destroys them, and slays the enmity; and yet God by Christ does reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they are things in the earth, or things in the heaven. Col 1:20.

Here you may see how the son of perdition betrayed Christ to the Chief Priests without, and how the son of perdition since Christ's ascension gets into the temple, and betrays Christ within, where Christ and his truth should be.

The devil, who abode not in the truth, tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God, and to go into a false liberty, out of truth, to eat of what God had forbid, by which they lost the image of God, and were drove out of the paradise of God, wherein was the true and blessed liberty, and all things were blessed to them. And when people began to multiply upon the earth, in the old world, they run into wickedness and false liberty, and corrupted the earth; and therefore God spared not the old world, but brought his judgments upon them, and saved Noah and his family, a preacher of righteousness; but the ungodly old world, regarded not his righteousness that he preached unto them, but went on in their loose and false liberty, until God brought a flood upon the old ungodly world and destroyed them.

And likewise the Lord turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, who ran into wickedness and false liberty; and therefore God condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto all those that after should live

ungodly. And Abraham prayed to God that he would not destroy the city of Sodom and Gomorrah; and the Lord said, 'if he found but ten righteous within the city, he would not destroy it for the ten's sake.' But the Lord delivered just Lot from them, who was vexed with the filthy conduct of those wicked people; for that righteous man, Lot, dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing it, vexed his righteous soul from day to day, with their unlawful deeds.

So here you may see these people of the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, their conduct was filthy and wicked, and their deeds were unlawful; such deeds and liberty, the Lord and his law did not allow of; and so they were in a false liberty. And therefore of that false liberty, which is out of righteousness and the law of God, let all take heed; for if they do not, they will be sure to come under judgment and condemnation. For God spared not the angels that sinned, which kept not their first estate, but left their habitation; he cast them down to hell, and has reserved them in everlasting chains under darkness, unto the judgment of the great day. And therefore all are to have a care to keep their habitation in the truth and righteousness, and where there is righteousness, there is peace; for you read in the apostles' days, many in an outward profession did forsake the right way and went astray, following the way of Balaam; and also such as went in the way of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Now Cain and Balaam had heard the voice of God, and Korah and his company the Lord had brought out of Egypt by his mighty arm and power; and therefore these might speak great swelling words of vanity, but were out of the way of light and life, and troublers of the children of the Lord in all ages, that walked in the way of Cain, Korah, and Balaam. And these are the wells without water, and clouds that are carried about with a tempest, to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. And these are trees whose fruit withers, and without fruit; twice dead, and to be plucked up by the roots. They were dead in Adam, and quickened and made alive, and dead again, and plucked up by the roots. Then they were not like to grow any more in the true ground; but it happens to them according to the true proverb, 'The dog is turned to his own vomit again;' what he once vomited up, he takes it again, and 'the sow that washed, to her wallowing in the mire.' And so it seems she was once washed. And these are those who promise themselves liberty, and are the servants of corruption, and whosoever is overcome by them, is brought into slavery. So the latter end of all such as walk in those paths is worse than the beginning.

And these are the raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, showing that they are gone into the world, the sea; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. And these were false teachers, and many should follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be, and is, evil spoken of. These are those who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit. This is a separation from the spirit of God, and so

from the fellowship of God's sons and daughters in the spirit; so they cannot be the fixed stars in the firmament of God's power. And therefore all God's children are to build up themselves in the holy faith which Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of, and dwell in the love of God, which edifies the body of Christ. And you have heard how the Lord saved his people out of the land of Egypt, and afterwards destroyed those who did not believe, neither received the truth in the love of it, nor walked in his law, but rebelled against his spirit, which he gave them to instruct them; and so rebelling against what would have kept them in fellowship, and in unity in the spirit, the bond of peace; for which cause God destroyed many thousands of them in the wilderness. And now take heed, all you that God has brought out with his mighty power out of spiritual Sodom, Egypt, and Babylon, lest you forsake his power, and Christ the right way of life, and go in the way of Cain, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and Balaam; and like Sodom and Gomorrah, and the old world; and become like raging waves of the sea, and the sow to the mire, and the dog to the old vomit again; and so wells without water, clouds without rain, trees without fruit, and wandering stars; carried about with a tempest; such must expect to be cast down into hell, and the chain of darkness to come over them, and to be reserved unto the judgment and condemnation of the great day.

The apostle said, 'There must come a falling way first before the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, ... So he that sits in the temple of God, ... but that wicked one shall be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy with the brightness of his coming.' And the son of perdition, his coming is after the working of Satan, in the enmity, with all power, and 'with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who perish, because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved; for this cause God shall send them strong delusions that they should believe a lie, that they all might be damned, who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' 2 Thes 2:2-12.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast in the Lord Jesus Christ, and be established in him in every good word and work.

And now, my friends, here you may see this mystery of iniquity began to work in the apostles' days, after Christ was ascended, and after the gospel was preached in the nations; and you may see how the apostles, and the church of Christ were troubled with such as went in Cain's, Korah's and Balaam's way, and Jezebel's and the Nicolaitans, and such as said that they were Jews, and were not, but did lie, as many say they are christians and inward Jews now, but do not walk in Christ.

Now there has been a night of apostasy since the apostles' days, and now the everlasting gospel is preached again, which was preached to Adam, saying, 'The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head;' and to Abraham, saying, 'In your seed shall all the nations, and all the families of the earth be blessed;' so that many are gathered into Christ the seed, both males and females; into his government, of the increase of it, and his peace there is no end. And now this mystery of iniquity, you know how it has worked, and that there has been a falling away, and many have run into Cain's, Korah's, and Balaam's way, and Jezebel's, and the Nicolaitans, and have been, and are the troublers of the church of Christ; and the son of perdition, that man of sin is revealed, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, ... and sits in the temple of God; and those who receive not the truth in the love of it, but believe a lie, are deceived by him to their destruction.

Now you read how the outward Judas or son of perdition betrayed Christ without, but this was and is an inward son of perdition that betrayed Christ within, who sits in the temple of God, and opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, as before; for what may be known of God is manifest within, and God has showed it unto them. So the son of perdition, the man of sin, the wicked one, and mystery of iniquity, whose working is after Satan with all deceivableness in those who perish; he gets into the temple of God and sits there, where light, grace, and truth and the word of God should be, and the holy ghost; for the saints' bodies are the temples of the holy ghost, and God and Christ, who dwells in them, and walks in them. But there is a falling away from the truth first, before the man of sin and son of perdition is revealed, and then his opposition is seen, and then he deceives, after the working of Satan, such as receive not the truth in the love of it; for Judas the son of perdition which betrayed Christ, he was numbered with the apostles, and obtained part of their ministry, from which by transgression he fell; and therefore said the apostle, 'As it is written in the book of Psalms, let his habitation be made desolate, and his bishopric let another take,' as in Acts 1:17,20.

So here you may see no man is to dwell in Judas' habitation who fell from the truth, and that part of the ministry which he had. So there is a falling away first, before that the man of sin the son of perdition be revealed, and many may come so far as outward Judas the son of perdition, to be partakers of the true ministry, and then fall away from the life and power of it, and become sons of perdition, opposers, betrayers, and deceivers of those who believe a lie, and receive not the truth in the love of it. But let all men beware of his habitation, for the Lord will consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy him with the brightness of his coming.

And you who have stood steadfast in the Lord Jesus Christ and his government, have been sensible what work this man of sin, the son of perdition, has made in

his opposition and opposing, yes, with all its power to betray those who walk and live in Christ, with their words, and books, and carriages, and actions; but he shall not prosper, for the Lord will consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy him with the brightness of his coming. Hallelujah.

And therefore, all every where who have received the gospel, and the seed in which all nations are blessed, dwell in this seed, males and females, who are all one in him, and live in the peaceable holy government of Christ, of the increase of which, and its peace, there is no end. And in this government, neither Cain, Korah, Dathan, nor Abiram, with their false fire, nor Balaam, nor the son of perdition can come. These are all without; though they trouble the church of Christ for awhile, yet Christ will trouble them in the day of their consuming and destruction. And so all walk in Christ Jesus, who was before they were, and will be when they are gone; and in Christ there is no division, but peace, for he is not divided; and in him God Almighty preserve all his people. Amen.