

Am I a Monkey Gone Wrong?



Some might say, "Yes he is." - "Sometimes I wonder myself, but when I come back to my senses and ponder about life then no-matter what happens or has happened: "I am still the happiest man alive."

Something I realized; there is, truth, love and life on the one side, but when I get out of bed on the wrong foot, then I have gloom and grumbles on the other side. How do I want to live today?

Phycologists tell me that it is my decision.

Well, that is easier said than done. I woke up with cramps in my feet, the hostel septic tank is full, the sponsoring charity is falling apart and then some. But the good news is, we caught two rats this week, the sun is shining today, I fixed a long stick to a bucket to empty the septic tank and the other night we had fun dancing with all the children, jumping around like monkeys... so maybe I am a monkey gone wrong... or... am I happy because I know that things work out for good to them that love the Lord and that his will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

I am okay with his will being done in heaven, but does it also apply to his will being done on earth? Although we pray that part in the Lord's prayer, I must be missing something as it seems very clear that **our will, not his will**, is done here on earth. "We don't need God's interference; forget his rules" and we're heading straight for imminent disaster.

Karl Marx proclaimed, "religion is the opium of the people."

Is there truth in that?

One thing that religion can do is to send us into a drug-like state of "wonderful, I have found the truth, because I found God, or because I got rid of God, depending on my religion, which includes Atheism. One definition of religion states: "a pursuit or interest followed with great devotion." Devoted to whatever our cause may be.

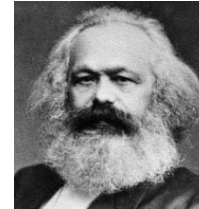
To many of us, religion is a friendship-club that shields us from the needs of the world around us. We will give some coins to our club to show our dedication, without really reaching out to others. When we take an honest, objective look at religion it becomes apparent that religions divide mankind. Prejudice, intolerance and narrow-mindedness are some of the most prevalent symptoms of religion.

While God is the total opposite; he wants us to love each other, to be friends. He made us social beings.



It's not to look down our nose at the other person because "I have the true religion." Isn't that what everyone thinks, whether Buddhist or Baptist, Scientologist or Sikh, Atheist or Agnostic, Jew or Jain. Catholic or Protestant, Hindu or Muslim. Religion seems to be the most divisive indoctrination against God, because **we think that God is religious like us. Well, he's not, we are!**

At a recent religious festival, I was asked to explain God to a group of students with different religions. I pulled an orange out of my pocket and explained that this is the way that many of us experience God.



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We take a bite in it as it is, and it tastes awful.

The peel represents religion and the way we perceive God to be. All too often God is used as a stick to enforce our personal morals and doctrines upon others and our children.



"If you do this, God will be angry with you and if God gets angry anything bad can happen. If you don't go to the temple, the mosque or to church you'll probably end up in hell".

We throw away the orange and say, "I have tasted God and he tastes terrible; he's not my cup of tea."

We throw out the baby with the bathwater.

"Hello, wait a minute, you forgot to peel it... duhhh!

When we make the effort to peel it;



we throw away the peel and read what God said in his word then we find out what he is really like. Like the orange he is refreshing, juicy, invigorating, sweet, life

giving and he just tastes so good, especially if you thirst for truth." I broke the orange in pieces shared it with the students on the front row. We ended the explanation with a short prayer. The students were thankful, not only for the fact that it was not a long-drawn-out religious discourse, but commented on how much they appreciated the simple allegory.

I do feel bad for poor Karl Marx, it seems he choked on the peel and never made it to the juicy part.

Let's think outside our 'religious box' of 'God has to be a certain way to fit my thinking.' Now, if he does not do what I say or pray, well then tough luck for God, but I don't want him anymore in my life.

Isn't that the reason we also throw in the towel with [our marriages](#) as our spouse doesn't always do what we say or even demand.

Men and women are opposite sex... we like the sex part but don't do so well with the opposite part.

We think we are boss and it is the other that does not cooperate. We refuse to learn the lessons of humility, forgiving, saying "I'm sorry" and apologize.



"Me sorry? No way; let the other apologize!" With the result that our "love-boat" crashes on the rocks.

It is pretty much the same way we treat God. "He just has to know that if we are going to believe in him and work together that he needs to do what I say/pray then we will have good relationship. Otherwise, it is "Good-bye."

That's not a relationship that is a dictatorship!

What if we don't throw in the towel and with an open mind try to understand if God actually has a plan for mankind and for me personally.

[If God created Adam](#) in his image and I am a 'son of Adam', then I want to understand what his motive was in creating him, and consequently me. What was his original plan for mankind? Was he only there when he created Adam, or is he still involved in this world and the running of it?

How can an average guy like me understand the vast incredible scientific knowledge and wisdom of God? I can't. Zero chance.

Yet, I need to know, I want to know, I have to know

if there's a plan for my life. God has promised to reveal himself to those that seriously seek him and I am serious. Honestly religion made my hair stand up as I thought that believing in God was like being drafted. "Do this or else.

Now you are in the army and you do what you are told" he barked. I did not appreciate to be talked to like that and after some stubborn five or six weeks I was happy to get kicked out.

Next, I was going to [take on God](#)... ..



I just have to laugh thinking about how ignorantly stupid I was. I always kind of respected Jesus, but honestly, I had no idea who or what God was; I thought he was an old bearded man with a stick ready to wallop. On top of that, he had a lot of big expensive buildings all over the world...

That was my thinking until the age of 21. I finally started reading what God had actually [written to me](#). I saw how simple and uncomplicated his plan for me really was. His commandment was not a bunch of laws of "Do's and Don'ts, or else!"

It was simply, "That you love each other." (John 15:12) It seemed like Jesus fitted right in with the hippy movement of the time; "Love is all you need"- "It's Flower Power!" I wanted to be that way, a free and loving person, no ulterior motives of money or business. Uncomplicated, no strings attached. Like I said, I liked Jesus, but it was not until I realized [what he gave](#) for me, and how he was the complete embodiment of love and 100% personification of the Father that things changed for me and [I dedicated myself](#) to him and what he stood for.

He was not a namby-pamby, religious, do-gooder.



He was full of life, spoke the truth, restored broken lives, blasted hypocrisy, loved sinners like you and me. And depending on [how much percentage of our life we surrender](#) to him, so much he can protect us in that impenetrable blanket of love, truth, freedom and happiness.

With his life Jesus set a sample to hold on to, in good times and bad times. He showed that if we have the tenacity to not let go, we will come out on top as winners.

Jesus is called "the Word of God"; if I want to get to know him better and love him more, all I need to do is, not only read and absorb God's word, a.k.a. the Bible, but see how I can actually put it into practice by helping another struggler along the path of life.

God's not in it for the money; maybe some of God's alleged representatives and the abundant living preachers are in it for the money, but God is not. He is filthy rich; he hid his diamonds, gold, oil and minerals in the earth, just to see what kind of decisions we would make and whether these things would build or ruin our character.

We might not think much of it, but these tests of our character are the main reason for our whole existence on earth.

I realized that the very most important thing that I need to learn in this arena of life is to love the other...

What are my decisions?

"Will I give or grab; will I help or hinder; will I love or loathe, be kind or kill, share or shoot? Will I fear and follow the crowd or stay faithful to Jesus; choose God or Satan; Life or death?"

This applies to all different aspects of life, whether it is money, driving, friends, enemies, sex, sports, our work, or any interaction with others.



As St. Francis said, "It is in giving that we receive, and it is in dying (to ourselves) that we are born again to eternal life" and I'd like to add, 'It is [even in sorrow](#) that we can find happiness and fulfilment in Jesus.' **God is not a once-a-week sing-along**; he is life, energy, love, truth and total freedom in surrender.

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