

Thoughts on Life and Faith

August 2022

I've been thinking about differences lately. It has probably stemmed from the news of the abortion debate in the US, and the sheer force of certainty from both sides which has made me wonder what else divides us, and what other issues cause us to stand on opposite sides of the fence emotionally, politically, economically (and spiritually?), glaring at each other, hands on hips...?

Generationally, we have brought our children up in different ways. Culturally, our world view can be entirely different. The news about climate change contrasts urgency with denial, or at the very least, complacency. At heart, most of us think that the world would be a better place if other people were much more like us! No wonder society is as fractured as it is, when each of us carries such a high opinion of ourselves!

It would be easy to feel hopeless when we watch the news and read the paper. Experience seems to tell us that people don't change. But differences in themselves don't have to divide us; if God made us, then he also allowed us freedom of thought and choice. We don't have to agree, although we may have to come to compromises in law and behaviour, but we do have to deal with each other respectfully and graciously, even when those differences cause us to struggle to find common ground. We can choose to deal with negative comments from family members about the way we manage our children with calmness rather than reaction. We can discuss our world views with those who hold differing ones without trying to score points or belittle them. Is it easy? I'll leave you to answer that! But to walk the way of peace is the better path.

Every blessing

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