

Epistle 302

by George Fox

Christ's command to feast with the poor and deny ourselves is a sign of love and discipleship, and allows us to receive the Lord's recompense and be blessed.

Topics: "Humility And Love", "Worldly Separation"

Description

George Fox preaches about living in the truth and being freed by God from the world's vain customs and feastings that dishonor Him. He emphasizes the importance of breaking away from extravagant and destructive practices that resemble beasts rather than honoring God. Fox encourages believers to follow Christ's example of humility and love by inviting the poor, maimed, and blind to feasts, knowing that true blessings come from obeying God's commands and denying self.

Transcript

To all Friends that live in the truth, and by it are become God's freemen and women [1 Cor 7:22], and by the truth and power of God are brought out of the world's vain fashions and customs, in their feastings, and revelings, and banquetings, and wakes, and other vain feastings, where they spoil the creatures, and dishonour the Lord God more those times and days, which they call holy days, and feast days, than any other times and days; and therefore you that are brought out of such things, and do see the vanity and folly of them; and likewise you that are brought out of all the extravagant feastings of companies in corporations, and of making of feasts, when the masters of companies are chosen, and constables, and head-boroughs, you see their vanity, and their folly, and madness, in their destroying of the creatures, to the reproach of christianity, and the dishonour of God, and the blaspheming of his name [Rom 2:23f]; and many times through the abusing of themselves [1 Cor 6:9] by excess, are more like beasts than men, in these things and doings; and therefore as you do see the folly and vanity of all such doings, in their voluptuous and vain feastings, and cannot observe their evil customs, then that vain spirit is in a great rage and fury, because you have, and do, break off fellowship with them in all these their vain customs [Jer 10:3].

And therefore you that are redeemed from these things by Christ, and from the feasting of the rich, and all other their vanities, and voluptuous dishonouring of God therein; I say to you, mind and practise Christ's words, as you may read in Luke xiii. 14. Christ saith, 'When thou makest a dinner, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither kinsfolks, nor thy rich neighbours, lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee; but when thou dost make a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind, and thou

shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee again, but thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just [Luke 14:12-14].'

So here you may see how Christ ordereth thee to make a feast or a dinner, and to whom, contrary to the world; and though it be a cross to them, yet it is to be obeyed, and observed, and practised; for it is the heavenly man's doctrine, and command, and will, and he that doth it shall know his doctrine; and this will judge the world in their vain feasts, dinners, and suppers, which they make for the rich, for which they have self-reward. But Christ's command being obeyed, denieth self [Mat 16:24, Luke 9:23], and hath the Lord's recompense; and all that call him Lord, should do as the Lord commandeth; and they that are his disciples, and do love him, will keep his commands [John 14:15]; for saith Christ, 'If you love them that love you, what thank have you?

For sinners also love those that love them. And if you do good to them that do good to you, what thank have you? For sinners also do even the same [Luke 6:32f]. So give and it shall be given unto you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over into your bosoms [Luke 6:38];' and the Lord is kind to the unthankful, and therefore, 'be ye merciful, as your heavenly Father is merciful [Luke 6:36].'
Luke vi. And therefore as you have forsaken all the world's vain feastings, and dinners, and suppers, (if so,) give the blind, the lame, the maimed, the widow, the fatherless, and the poor, a feast or a dinner, and obey Christ, the heavenly man's doctrine, though it do cross old earthly Adam's will and practices; and though he be angry, never heed him, but obey the Lord.

G. F.

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