

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 30

SUBJECT- UNREALITY - 10/05/14

Unreality A Tricky Subject

How can we tell if we are making too much of error, or the unreal, or too little? If we make too much of the ills of the flesh so-to-speak, we lose our Science, too little, and our Science just flies around up there! This is where "Honesty is spiritual power. Dishonesty is human weakness which forfeits divine help." (*Science and Health p. 453:16*)

If we are consumed with the vileness of the error out there, we have been had. Perhaps this is why Mrs. Eddy warned her students: "When you see sin in others, know that you have it in yourselves, and become repentant."

On the other hand, in the article Exemplification, Mrs. Eddy admonishes "Note well the falsity of this mortal self! Behold its vileness..."

Is this surprising? We are dealing with our own consciousness, each of us, and it is right here where we have dominion, if we would use it. We need to stop getting distracted by the evil out there over which we have no power. "Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good." (*Science and Health, p. 393: 12:13 - the resistance is not out there, but right here.*)

On message:

<http://www.plainfieldcs.com/index.php/Watches/weekly-meat.html> *****

A False Witness

"A false witness that speaketh lies..." This is what we become when we "see" with the material senses – a false witness and a liar. The news media rampant with fear and negativity is a false witness and a liar. When we were going through the trials of our law case and there were many lies circulating about our church we were given this simple truth to work with – "Error or animal

magnetism is no one, talking about nothing, to nobody." Really puts error soundly in its place!

The Wrong Done Another

449: 7-11 The wrong done another reacts most heavily against one's self.

Right adjusts the balance sooner or later. Think it "easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle," than for you to benefit yourself by injuring others.

This is a humble reminder for me to always see that I am putting error where it belongs (as a mesmeric suggestion) and not attach it to anyone! We were taught that the goat that intends to ruin a white washed wall by brushing its dirty coat on it leaves with scratches on itself. If I hold an error as true for anyone it means it could be true for me as well.

This is why Love alone is the liberator and must be heeded! *****

This is why gossip is not allowed in the church.

To attach error to a person, either verbally or mentally, is a poison that everyone feels, but that harms the one doing it the most. And, in the presence of a group of experienced workers, that kind of thought cannot stay. It either has to be healed or it will eject itself from the group.

Our unity is in the one Mind. Our very lives are in the one Mind, God! *****

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"The group!" There could not be a more perfect example of why churches are closing in droves in an enlightened society. The call for unity is the mantra of every tyrannical system - Communist Party, Nazi Party, Mother Church, Vatican. Today, when the human mind spouts a party line, more often, it falls on deaf ears.

In 1st Edition, "independent action" is a spiritual quality. As such, when it meets in the one Mind, THEN there is unity. Not otherwise. *****

Absolutely! You cannot have unity without independent thinkers. No question about that. In the cases you mentioned, "the group" was mesmerized or controlled by a tyrannical leader - which results from undetected and unhandled animal magnetism. Therein lies the danger. *****

I am not sure I fully comprehend her divine message, but from what I glean. this is Christian Unity... MY p. 200:

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST,
LONDON, ENGLAND

My Beloved Brethren: --- The chain of Christian unity, unbroken, stretches across the sea and rises upward to the realms of incorporeal Life --- even to the glorious beatitudes of divine Love. Striving to be good, to do good, and to love our neighbor as ourself, man's soul is safe; man emerges from mortality and receives his rights inalienable --- the love of God and man. What holds us to the Christian life is the seven-fold shield of honesty, purity, and unselfed love....

She also says in (*Science and Health*, p.447): "To put down the claim of sin, you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion and thus get the victory over sin and so prove its **unreality**." What great instruction! Emphasis added. *****

Evil A Fraud!

(*Science and Health*, 208: 20-24) Let us learn of the real and eternal, and prepare for the reign of Spirit, the kingdom of heaven, —the reign and rule of universal harmony, which cannot be lost nor remain forever unseen.

This is assuring in the way it exposes evil's powerlessness to hide Truth. The veil, as any other evil, must be seen as in belief only. "Every mortal must learn that there is neither power nor reality in evil." (*Science and Health*, p. 186)

This should make me more fervent in working for the exposure of error's disguise; the nothingness that claims to be something so powerful!! Thus, others may discover the lie and begin to prove Truth's supremacy, the kingdom of heaven within, for themselves. *****

Overcome Evil With Good

(*Science and Health*, 571: 15-21) "At all times and under all circumstances, overcome evil with good."

For a long time, I struggled with this statement. It seemed no matter how "good" I was to the human standard it did nothing to overcome the evil in my experience. In fact, it had the opposite effect. "Good" being: be nice at all cost; forgive and let evil continue; don't speak up; please people; be loving - a very subjective, dangerous word when based on human standards; don't rock the boat; and many other variations. When I tried to fight evil on a human level it just made it feel very real and exhausted me. This was personal sense without God.

Since working with a Plainfield practitioner and using Plainfield's resources, good is beginning to have a new meaning for me. I am learning more of the nothingness of evil and how to overcome its seeming power. This has been a process of purging, self-awareness, repentance, new views and tears, but worth the process. It is amazing how ignorant one can be of self and not know it.

Today, I came across a quote in the book *Footsteps* by Carpenter, Chapter 100. "In her work Miscellany, Mrs. Eddy refers to the poem which contains the line, 'only great as I am good.'

Although, in this instance, goodness would refer to the scientific process for gaining reflection, it must be remembered that the power and majesty of what man reflects belong to God." *****

SUBJECT - ARE SIN DISEASE AND DEATH REAL? - 10/12/14

Sobering...

(*Science and Health*, p. 297) is a reality check!!!

One part of it says, "Until belief becomes faith, and faith becomes spiritual understanding, human thought has little relation to the actual or divine."

Let's not kid ourselves into thinking we have some "in" because of Christian Science teachings - when, in reality, in my experience, I find there's a lot of faith without spiritual understanding. Meaning, when I "declare the truth", is there really spiritual understanding there, or just faith?

If I perceive something to be a threat that needs to be handled - what is telling me that? Is it faith (my human sense of things that doesn't want its beliefs to be challenged) or spiritual understanding?

Christian Scientists especially, I would think, have a tremendous responsibility first to make sure they are not under a mesmerism (operating by faith). That takes humility, because it requires bringing a cherished belief or sense of one's righteousness on a topic, and casting it aside so to make space for reality. The first step to coming out of a mesmerism is willingness to say, "Hey, I'm going to assume that I'm wrong... God, what do you say?" *****

That is great - thank you. To approach God with the attitude of "I may very well be wrong" ...well, that kind of humility and openness is the only way to approach Him!*****

Sobering, as well, is what Mary Baker Eddy says in the (*Science and Health*, 327:23). Moral courage is

requisite to meet the wrong and proclaim the right. But how shall we reform the man who has more animal than moral courage, and who has not the right idea of good? Such questions are powerful and cause humility, to question the human position, unearth and to see with faint, but more clarity. Peter is quite right about spiritual understanding because, as we have learned, we may be able to quote the books, but do we understand to cause an instantaneous awakening as Peter and John brought on as a way of life?

I am grateful that at this forum, I can ponder and share these small awakenings with you. Thanks to each and every one of you who shares and pushes me to reconsider and recall thoughts that may seem truthful, but are full of stains. The Forum and the Roundtables are places to clean thought and see more. *****

Who Is A Sinner?

Am I a sinner if my sickly thoughts make me sick? Why would I be treated differently, from say, one who steals? In both cases, isn't there a belief in an awful deception? "Mortals think wickedly; consequently they are wicked. They think sickly thoughts, and so become sick." (*Science and Health*, p. 270). *****

From 1st Edition of *Science and Health*
<http://bit.ly/1rSnQv5>

"Our only rightful law-giver is God, fulfilling all law in righteousness, and visiting not on man the penalty of sin, except for moral transgression; but destroying sin, and death, and triumphing over the grave." *****

God does not send punishment to man even for moral offense? Don't we do it to ourselves?

It's interesting that Jesus uses **sin no more** for two people who are healed; one of immoral lifestyle and another of a physical illness:

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the

temple and said unto him, "Behold, thou art made whole. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

John 8:11 - She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. ..." to the woman at the well.

These two accounts have helped me to view physical claims just as unacceptable as a moral offense since both mean my disloyalty to God's Allness. It's made me check my thinking often, (a great discipline to practice). If I indulge in sickly thoughts I suffer, even though the punishment is self-inflicted.

Thank God for His mercy and grace; and for Mrs. Eddy for showing us how to resist these false claims. *****

But God forbid we enter a sickroom with this on our minds! "The poor suffering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace, patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear Father's loving-kindness." (*Science and Health*, p.365)

Notice Jesus' admonitions came after the healing was manifest. *****

"But God forbid we enter a sickroom with this on our minds! The poor suffering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace,"

How could I be of any help if I entered a sick room with a condemning thought about my patient. But it is equally damning to enter a sick room to sympathetically care for someone, while attaching the claim to the sufferer in your thought.

My point is to my appreciation for Jesus' demonstration of Love in making physical claims no less unacceptable as moral offenses.

They are both awful deceptions, unacceptable and both need to be guarded against.

Opposing Thought

A mortal belief fulfills its own conditions. Sickness, sin, and death are the vague realities of human conclusions.

This part of the Lesson came to mind last night as I was reading from "Opposing Thought" by Martha Wilcox;

"To attribute power to any cause but God is to declare our own powerlessness and to manifest it, as well. If we believe that another's thoughts can influence our demonstrations, we manifest the effects of our belief. We, as students of Christian Science, are demonstrating the scientific truth of the omnipotence of God, and we should never allow any fear of opposition to enter our thought. If we let in fear of some opposition, we mesmerize ourselves in the name of a supposed foe. Then we feel the effects of our own fear and unbelief in the supremacy of God.

"The only carnal sense we have to overcome is our own. We never need to be troubled with the sense of some external power. In our individual thought lurks the belief in opposition and also the fear of it! We must realize that the seeming opposition to us is never external to ourselves. It is internally that this error in belief must be met and mastered. As we rise superior to the belief that mortal thought can influence us or hinder our progress or demonstration, a mighty transfiguration begins to take place in our lives."

Whatever the opposing thought might be—whether the belief of contagion, terrorism, or "large numbers" of malpractitioners working against Christian Science (as noted in the July Fourth article from *Prose Works*)—these have no real power other than what we give to it.

They are not external to us. They are the "seeming" which must be "unseen" to us as we hold to the divine facts of being. It is the only way we can demonstrate over these beliefs.