

Chapter 6

Be A Good Neighbour

Christ taught , “ Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Luke 10:27). It is a Samaritan who is the good neighbour in Christ`s simily. The Jews treated Samaritans as inferior to them on those days. In such an era, Christ declared a certain Samaritan as good neighbour in his simily.

Suppose one Christian asks Christ; who is my neighbour? He will show us either a Muslim, a Jew, a Sikh, or a Buddhist as our good neighbour.

It is understood that likewise Christians love their religion , they should approve, respect and love the neighbouring religions. It doesn`t mean that Christians should receive the customs and methods of the neighbouring religions. From the previous chapter, we have seen that the chief/head master Christ, respected and loved the founders of other religions as Himself. Christians are bound to present Christ before the world by the words and merciful and charitable activities. But it shouldn`t aim or target anybody`s conversion to Christianity.

The era of those who called for the formation of Christian religion have gone. The time after the disciples of Christ is the era of believers. Most of the believers show respect while passing across churches. The holy words of Christ “ and as ye would that men should to you, do ye also to them likewise” is very relevant now a days. If Christian show respect while passing across the mosques, temples , synagogues, that behaviour will be a symbol of approval and love towards those religions and also the great respect towards the light of truth having Godly life(holy spirit) which is present in those religions. In this matter, Christians should receive the model of Hindus. Because most among them obey the protocol while passing across the churches. This behaviour is applicable to each and every believer of all religions. That will result only in communal harmony and religious tolerance.

Since Christ is the son of God, all people belonging to every religion could believe , serve and love him keeping their religion, customs and manners remain unchanged. When somebody help those who deserving, without considering any discrimination of religion, friend or foe, and expecting no rewards from them, then only he/she will be able to serve Christ.

Mother Teresa who witnessed Christ through charitable and merciful activities without targeting conversion is an ideal model for Christians and the entire world itself.



Mother Teresa

Barrister M.K. Gandhi , became a great man ever honoured by the whole world who adopted Christ's love and simplicity as his life style. Gandhi revealed the world by his life the fact that standing his/her own religion, and not changing the customs and manners , anybody can love, respect and serve Christ. The world would not accept him if he would have changed his religion on behalf of his love towards Christ. He strongly remained in his own religion and that is the secret behind his nobility.



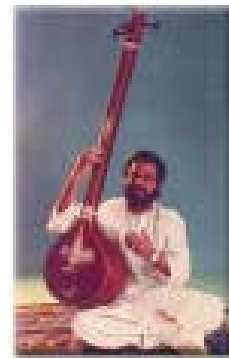
“I Love Christ, but I hate Christians”

Mahatma Gandhi

Another respected and talented person is Dr. K.J.Jesudas who copied the model of Christ from his childhood itself, and who respects the founders of neighbouring religions and through them the neighbouring religions , just like the chief/head master(Christ).

Dr. K.J.Jesudas

He is a blessed singer from the state of Kerala, South India.



Remember the words of Christ. “ I say unto you, whatsoever ye bond on earth shall be bound in heaven”. (St. Mathew 18:18). But there is no doubt that the wrongly formulated ideologies by the Christian religion will not be approved in heaven.

The brave woman, Joan of arc, was rejected and expelled by the Catholic church firstly but later it has to respect her deeply.



Joan of Arc

It is earth that revolves around Sun not the reverse. This truth was taught by Galileo and he was punished by the church for the same. There is no Christian today that doesn't approve this fact about the Earth.

Galileo



It is noticeable and praiseworthy that His Holiness Pope John Paul II, publicly apologized before Christ for the faults and deviations happened in the past few hundreds of years in the catholic church. The love shown to neighbouring religions by H.H. Pop John Paul II who praised the religious temperament of Muslim community is highly appreciable.



Pope John Paul II

There is no dispute that if any religious believer thinks that heaven is meant for that particular religious members, and available only for those who moving forward accepting the outlook of the religion, that will be a big blunder and inhuman outlook.

Those who find some time to spare for the consistency of the neighbouring religions which are the other sheep-pen of Christ (Prajapathi) like their own religion, during their prayer time, are the real devotees of God. They are good neighbours. But those who assume strong devotees of God by themselves, do they have desire for the disappearance of the neighbouring religions, in their inner mind? Isn't it? Do they want the other religions to be converted to their own religion? Not it so?

Don't try to be the owners of the narrow-minded thought "We and our religion". But try to have the broad-minded view "We and our religions". If the aforesaid idea dominates in our mind, irrespective of the religion, we can love Christ(Prajapathi) who is the owner of all sheep-pen(religion). Continuing in our own religion and holding our own traditional customs and rituals and also by secret donations and offerings and charitable and merciful activities, not considering the rewards and without discrimination, we can worship and serve Him.

“For I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” (Mathew 25:35)

It is evident from Mathew 25.35 that, on the Last day of Judgement, the blessings or punishment given by Christ is not based on religion, or the customs and manners of worship but it strongly depends on the merciful and charitable activities. The holy words also teach us that mere religious offerings and invocations will not be sufficient for salvation. Therefore anybody can worship and follow Christ through his/her charitable activities, without converting his/her religion.

When a new religion is formed by God in this world, it is necessary to convert some believers from the neighbouring religions, for the proper development of the new religion. But this conversion is unnecessary after the maturity of the new religion. This unnecessary conversion results in friction and clash between religions and also riots between the believers. Mathew 5:9 “Blessed are the peace makers. For they shall be called the children of God”. These words of Christ is relevant today.

The priests who argue for conversion from other religions clear the path for riots, whatever be their religion. Those priests who think conversion unnecessary are really messengers of peace. It is understood that the Hindu clergymen are messengers of peace in this sense.