Eighth Month: Equality

Advices from *Faith & Practice* (1993) and (2018)

Every person has the capacity to experience the Inner Light. This common humanity transcends our differences. People everywhere are children of God and members of one family. We value the worth of each person.

We treat every person— regardless of their abilities or economic status — with respect and love. We cannot be easy in our own lives when others suffer indignity, injustice, or want. With an awareness of historic and current oppression of certain groups, we ask ourselves whether we are currently living out the testimony of equality in our personal lives, in our Meetings, and in the world.

In the spirit of Christ, we are ready to put ourselves at one another's side and share each other's burdens. As we are true to the Divine within ourselves, we respond to the Divine in others.

As Friends we share a vision of a social order based on this testimony of equality —it embraces and seeks to transform all of human society.

Queries

- Do we speak to and answer "that of God" in everyone?
- Do we regularly examine ourselves for evidence of privilege and prejudice?
- What are we, as individuals and as a Meeting community, doing to overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?
- Do we avoid being drawn into violent reactions against those who are destructive of human dignity? Do we reach out to violators as well as the violated with courage and love?
- Do we make our hearts and our Meeting open to all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and identity, or class?
- Do we search diligently for ways of assuring the right of every individual, to be loved, cared for, and educated appropriately, to obtain useful employment, and to live with dignity?

Quotes from Friends

Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least… you have done unto me." We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

Sixth World Conference of Friends, 2012

Love is a reciprocal relationship between independent personalities, each with rights and spheres of interest. So it is with groups—a proper loving relationship between groups must be based on their rights to co-exist and influence matters in their own spheres of interest.

A. Barrie Pittock, 1969

Our human compassion binds us one to another—not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.

Nelson Mandela, South Africa