

Back Cover

HOW GOD HELPS US LIVE  
A PEACEFUL LIFE  
IN A VIOLENT WORLD

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Third Edition

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## PREFACE

As always my debt to my husband Frank is great for his willingness to translate and explain difficult Bible passages to me.

I try to write in the present tense for Fox's pastoral letters live on fresh, new, and inspiring today.

If readers are interested in finding the specific pastoral letters referred to in this book, they may read my books on my web site at [www.charlottecondia.com](http://www.charlottecondia.com). *No Mans Copy, The Pastoral Letters of George Fox*. Sunrise Publishing, Las Cruces New Mexico, 2006, has lots of quotes from the pastoral letters and lots of footnotes. *The Pastoral Letters of George Fox 1-420, 1643-1690*. Sunrise Publishing, Las Cruces New Mexico. 2005 is a discussion of each of the letters.

These two books and other books and resources, such as a *Select Concordance* may be found here.

For further resources and information the reader can also access my comprehensive blog entitled, *How to Live a Peaceful Life in a Violent World* at [www.foxpeaceplan.blogspot.com](http://www.foxpeaceplan.blogspot.com)

Canby Jones' book *George Fox's Attitude Toward War* can be read on Las Cruces Peace Resource Organization at [www.lcpronm.org](http://www.lcpronm.org)

This is the third edition of this book. I feel perfectly free to use material from anything that I have written about George Fox and John Woolman for it.

Charlotte Condia  
New Mexico Spring, 2012  
Las Cruces New Mexico

# INTRODUCTION

## A REMARKABLE PEACE PLAN

Why consider God's Plan for a peaceful life which we know about only from George Fox? Because George Fox is remarkable, a unique person. He loves God passionately and writes of this love beautifully in the more than 400 pastoral letters he wrote between 1640 and 1690. A universalist, he believes that everyone may know God. A Universal God is One who pours out His Spirit on all men and women, so that all may know and worship Him. Fox uses universal, inclusive language: words like "all, everyone, people everywhere, company of people, citizen, every man and woman", when he writes of those individuals whom God loves, and whom Christ enlightens and died for.

He believes in a God who is both "general and particular." A God who saves all people but who is also our intimate Friend.

Fox has an all encompassing world view.

He believes that Friends are the chosen and the elect; God loves them the best. God had a plan – the path of Quaker holiness – for them so that they may live a peaceful life in a violent world. He makes whole what others only saw in part, a complete plan for how to live a holy and peaceful life.





## THE GOD OF PEACE

*May grace and Peace be yours in ABUNDANCE. God BRINGS the BLESSINGS of Peace to*

*all nations and all people. Do His will, and you will be COMPLETE in everything good.*

*DEPART in Peace for a harvest of righteousness is sown for those who make Peace. God gives us an EVERLASTING Peace for the EARTH which can be ENJOYED. Peace flows as a river from the Rock and FOUNDATION of Life.*

*GOD, the HEAVENLY Teacher of Peace, creates us in His IMAGE, and fills us with all JOY. We seek his everlasting KINGDOM which is above all strife.*

*God, the Father of peace, fills our hearts with LOVE, LIFE and MERCY. NO Peace is chaos; Peace is ORDER.*

*God gave us His Son, the King of PEACE, the PRINCE of Life. Such a PEACE the world cannot take away.*

*Peace is sometimes QUIET, sometimes jubilant. It RESTORES AND RECONCILES all things and is SAFETY and SANCTUARY.*

*TRUTH is peaceable.*

*God gives us Peace, love and UNITY. He is not a God of VENGEANCE but One who fills our hearts with WISDOM. The name of the Eternal eXalted God is Peace. So be at Peace among YOURSELVES.*

We are created in the Image of God.

Christ lives within us as the Light and we are enlightened by Him.

We can witness too, and answer the good in everyone.

We may live in God's peaceful Kingdom on earth; we will live in God's Kingdom in heaven for eternity.

We can live a simple life and share with others.

This universality, brotherhood of all people, is demonstrated in the peace testimony. The human family is one, children of one Father. How can any one war against the members of one's own family? Fox believes in the worth of all persons; war is the most terrible destroyer of this worth. He also loves people which is much harder.

Fox had a rare insight and clarity in knowing what is right and wrong and how one knows which is which. He knows how people should treat each other; how husbands should treat wives and vice versa; how parents should treat their children; business people their customers. He has a consistent and orderly world view keeping the inner and outward life in harmony.

Spiritual values permeate all his beliefs; every aspect of his life has a spiritual component. He states that truth is the only way to communicate with others. By having only one standard, he simplifies the complex.

A man of peace, Fox could not condone war in any form or participate in it for any reason. He did not resist violent attacks upon himself but accepts suffering even though he believes that those who persecute and kill are traitors to Christ. He prays for and blesses his persecutors. For if you love your enemy, you cannot kill them.

A generous, good person, George Fox is filled with joy. Joy just seems to bubble up in him. He loves God, but he also loves people. Genuinely good, generous people capable of loving others are rare. Often stern with Friends, he may holler at them, complain about them, call them every kind of sinner ever known but he does like them. For he writes to them: Dear and tender Friends, All my dear brethren, babes of God, who are in the arms of the Almighty.

A man of great compassion he cares what happens to the sick, homeless and vulnerable.

Fox doesn't think that everyone should stand on the sidelines and leave getting to know and love God to some intermediary. Everyone is to be active in their own redemption – walking, dwelling and living in God who scatters the clouds and keeps our eyes clear. We are to worship God and try to understand and obey His will for our lives.

Fox understands people, sin, temptation, and addiction. Whatever any one is addicted to the tempter will come in that thing. He will use it to take control of the person. If the individual thinks that he or she will never overcome the temptation, help will come despite their expectations. The Light, the God within, will show the temptation. Fox makes withstanding temptation sound easy. "When it troubles you," he writes, "just sink down in that which is pure and all will be healed, hushed and fly away."

The crown of Fox's experience is his knowledge and passionate love of God and his ability to communicate this to others. He shows that it is possible to know and love God. He wrote about this love and his deep belief in Him in an extraordinary way that few people have. An expert in knowing and loving God, he doesn't compartmentalize, put God in a corner of his life. His love of God fills his whole life. There is a goodness, wholesomeness, depth and genuine excitement to this belief that isn't often found in this world.

Fox believes that Friends should live in the world with a simple lifestyle; be in the world but not consumed by it. His focus is on this world. We are to have productive, meaningful lives loving and serving God. If individuals or the state persecute us and we have our means of livelihood stolen, we are to stand up to our persecutors. Eternity is not an excuse for oppressing people here and telling them that they will get their reward later. So he organized Friends for defense against

persecution. He showed them how to help themselves. If they were imprisoned or had their lands confiscated, he showed them the most effective way to confront their persecutors.

Fox is able to see genuine equality for everyone rather than individuals confined to strict classes. First and most important is that there is equal access to God for all. The Lord's people are made up of both men and women; both men and women have the same sorts of responsibilities; both have similar opportunities to use the gifts that God has given them.

an inferior life or warfare but because we are lazy and wish to increase our wealth.

Slave owner: Slaves are immoral.

Woolman: Slavery encourages immorality. Slaves are not allowed to marry and the father of a child has no responsibility for him. Owners separate husbands and wives and take their children from them.

Slave owner: Slaves have the mark of Cain.

Woolman: The color of a man's skin has nothing to do with what is right or just.

Slave owner: Slavery was established by God.

Woolman: Slaves have souls and their souls are as valuable as our own. God did not create them to be slaves, but to live for ever. Slavery does not agree with Christianity. Christ would not have owned a slave. The effect of slavery on you is very bad. You live a lazy and immoral life, become abusive and often inflict terrible punishments upon your slaves.

THE END

you have spent is a poor argument. The man or woman who did not willingly give up their freedom had no choice in their slavery. When you buy a slave and pay the slave trader, you join hands with him and share his guilt for the terrible thing that he has done.

Slave owner: I cannot free my slaves. I have to leave them to my children.

Woolman: You may be kind to your slaves and treat them fairly, but your children are much less likely to do so.

Slave owner: I own the children born to my slaves.

Woolman: If you own a slave against his will, what right have you to keep his children in slavery? These children are no more slaves than if they were merchants' children who came from Africa on an English vessel.

Slave owner: Slaves are not fit for freedom.

Woolman: Slaves are human beings and are entitled to all the rights enjoyed by other men in America. Freedom is the natural right of all innocent men.

Slave owner: Slaves will only work when they are forced too. They are shiftless and childlike.

Woolman: If you had been kept a slave, treated as property, loaded with chains, sold in a market and kept in ignorance, you would also appear to be shiftless.

Slave owner: One white laborer can do as much in a day as two slaves.

Woolman: A free man can find satisfaction in providing for his family. The slave doesn't have the same reason. His wife and child may be separated from him without explanation. The slave must support those who are not his family and who claim him as property.

Slave owner: The slave's life may not be all that great here, but it was so wretched in Africa that they are better off here.

Woolman: The wars in Africa make it easier to bring back slaves. If pity were our real reason for buying slaves, we would treat them kindly and try to make their lives happy among us. When we purchase slaves, we want to help ourselves, not them. We buy slaves not to protect them from

God lives within us as the Light and we are created in His image. We are members of His family, we are equal. Men and women of every religion, skin color and ethnicity participate in this equality.

Fox also sees that all individuals have a right to liberty of conscience.

Fox believes in the value of all people and that everyone may have spiritual insights. He doesn't say that the most learned should speak for the group but that each individual should speak.

How is it possible to do this? As always for Fox, Christ is the answer. For through Him we have been made more than conquerors.

*George Fox doesn't act as if he is brighter, more dedicated, and more spiritual than anyone else. He doesn't say that only he can be a mystic but shows everyone how to be one. Possibly the most remarkable thing about him is his confidence that ordinary people can do what is pure and good, that they have the God given resources to live a spiritual life.*

*Men and women can glorify, exalt, and honor God in all things. For they are able to see all evil because they have the Light. They have the Power to withstand evil and to see that nothing is lacking. They may keep the testimony of Christ against all that which is not true.*

*Everyone may have "water in their own cisterns" and know those "clouds through which Christ gives them rain." In other words they are capable of living a holy life.*

*Anyone can "purchase the field where the pearl of great price lies," where the lily and the rose begin to flourish and the apple tree brings forth her fruit in the spring. So will everyone's spiritual life flourish by the Power of the Lord God who is over all. LETTER 275, 1669*

# GOD'S PLAN FOR HOW TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE IN A VIOLENT WORLD

HOW DOES GOD HELP US LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE IN A VIOLENT WORLD?

He creates us in the His Image so may be like Him, peaceful, loving and good.

Christ lives within us as the Light so we are enlightened by Him.

We may find God in everyone and speak to that God within them.

We live in God's Kingdom here on earth and will live in His Kingdom in Heaven for eternity.

We may live a simple life, take only what is needful, and share with others.

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

God loves us and we can love Him in return.

What does it mean that God creates us in His Image?

The name of the eternal exalted God is Peace. The Father of peace, the Heavenly Teacher of Peace fills our hearts with love, life, mercy and joy. We can live in the Peace of the Prince of Peace, which the world cannot take away. Grace and Peace are ours in abundance so that we will be complete in everything good. Because God creates us in His Image we can live peaceful lives.

Most people would find it difficult to live exactly as John did but any life can be lived in his spirit. His life shows what it means to follow one's conscience, and that one person can make a stand against evil and make a difference in the world.

His actions are peaceful, he approaches people in a kind, peasant way and explained his reasons for doing a particular thing. If he believes that something like slavery is wrong and violent, all of his actions support this belief. Even though it was inconvenient for him not to use sugar as it was an important preservative, and he made himself a spectacle by wearing clothing made of undyed white fabric, he did not lose his resolve.

#### A CONVERSATION ABOUT SLAVERY

John's quiet talk with Friends who owned slaves might go something like this.

Woolman: You are a kind person who wishes to do what is right. We are brothers of the slaves. Hasn't one God made us all? All persons, slave and free, share many things. We all have similar problems and sicknesses, and finally we all will die.

Slave Owner: I treat my slaves well. My wife says that I am too kind.

Woolman: This is a real gift to be able to understand the feelings and troubles of others and be kind to them. But we are not good enough to have complete control over another person.

Slave owner: I may be kind but I have to have the slave labor to take care of my house, my fields and my animals.

Woolman: You have been given many possessions, house, land, horses. You must consider why God gave you these luxuries. What if you had been a slave all your life working at the most difficult and unpleasant jobs. You would see people relaxing and enjoying many luxuries based on your hard work. You would have to spend Sunday growing potatoes so that you had enough to eat. Slaves are in a position where they have no say in their own lives.

Slave owner: I have spent a good deal of money for my slaves. I have some rights over them.

Woolman: The practice of slavery is wrong from the beginning. So the amount of money that



need. No more than that. John is happy with this plain way of living. He was not interested in luxuries and did not want to spend all his time making money for things he didn't need.

Working, and caring for our family and ourselves is part of God's plan for us, but not His whole plan. This part should not take all our time and energy. So John closes his shop and makes his living as a tailor.

### JOHN TRIES TO FREE THE SLAVES

While he was doing other things, John was thinking about slavery which he knows is wrong. He didn't want people to be slaves; he could not pretend it was right. People were not to be bought and sold like cattle. Just because their parents are slaves, children are not to be kept as slaves.

John feels so strongly that slavery is wrong that he changes the way he lives his life. He would not use products made by slaves. If everyone would do the same, he thought, the slave owners would not make any money. So they would stop buying slaves.

John would not use sugar, which was made by slaves. He would not wear clothes made from dyed cloth because slaves make the dye. When he traveled in the South, he walked in the sun instead of riding on his horse. He did this so that he could understand, in some small way, how hot it was for the slaves working in the fields.

When he was the guest of Friends who owned slaves, he would have a quiet talk with the father of the family. He would explain to him why slavery was wrong. "We all have one Father. We are all God's children." He gave his reasons in a fair way. He didn't insult his host or say how terrible he was. In a pleasant, peaceful way he showed him that it was not right to own slaves.

Sometimes John would leave money for the slaves with the head of the family; sometimes he would give the money to the slaves themselves. He could not accept their hard work, their cleaning, cooking, waiting on him, for nothing. He did these things in a loving and kind way.

John loves God and spends his life trying to do His will. In doing this he tries to keep a balance in his life. He knows that part of loving and serving God is caring for his family. But he also needs to spend time going to meeting and saying his prayers, getting to know God, loving Him. Then he needs to try to do something about the terrible evils in the world.

We are of value because we are in God's Image. We show our best qualities; we can be our best selves, our real selves, our complete selves. We can live a full life and use the gifts that God has given us.

Part of being in the Image of God is that we can share— in a very small but very important way — in the day to day process of creation. We have children, teach, write a story, tend a garden. We have a responsibility for the environment, are kings and queens over creation and all creatures. But everyday, ordinary things are part of creation too.

Our decisions are not completely selfish and self-serving but do consider other people's wants and needs. We try to do God's will in our lives and do some good in the world, caring about other people, not merely ourselves.

We are in the Image of God in that we can be pure, holy, and righteous. These are moral characteristics. This means that we can live good moral lives.

An image is a copy, not the real thing. For we certainly are not God. However, we are in God's image in that we know right from wrong, good from evil. We are capable of loving others, of living a peaceful life, of being pure and chaste.

Fox believes, of course that both men and women are created in the Image of God.

A Blessing:

*May you all work in His Image, in his Power, in his Garden, as man and woman did before the Fall. LETTER 344, 1677*

# CHRIST THE LIGHT LIVES WITHIN US PROTECTING LOVING AND TEACHING US

CHRIST LIVES WITHIN US AS THE LIGHT AND HE LOVES, PROTECTES, AND TEACHS US.

Christ the Light lives within each of us and gives us knowledge and understanding, helps us, shows us what is right and wrong. Everyone should stand still in Him who makes all things readily seen and understood. He leads to the Father. Christ true and best name is Christ the Light. The biblical underpinning – which Fox read in the King James’ version of the Bible – for this belief is John 1:9: “That was the true Light, which lighteneth every man that cometh into the world”

By believing in Christ the Light, we become His children. We must own the Light that shines in our heart. Own means to confess, acknowledge, be aware of the Light. It doesn’t mean that we possess the Light, can tell Him what to do. We are obedient to Him, not He to us.

He is life and wisdom from above, the Author of our living Faith. The True Light, spiritual and eternal, by whom the world was made, is glorified with the Father. The Light Christ is Truth and purity. Universal, He is everywhere, within all persons, throughout time and before time. He fills all space, has no beginning and will have no end. But He is also intimate, personal, direct, positive, and above all immediate. He can be addressed and responded to; it is possible to experience Him first hand, without an intermediary.

The idea of all things becoming brand new, starting over, is an appealing one. Christ the Light makes everything new. Christ’s *true and best name* is Christ the Light.

What guidelines does Woolman give for following our conscience? Primarily he gives us the example of his life, for he always follows his conscience even if it is the hard thing to do. He is amazingly consistent. There are no ambiguities but perfect clarity about what he believes.

One way to follow our conscience is to pay attention to the Light within who will lead us to the Truth. Following our conscience means doing what God wants us to do rather than what most people are doing. Following our conscience frequently involves doing something when most other people think that we are wrong and are doing just the opposite. Unfortunately, following our conscience is not necessarily the popular thing to do. It means doing what is right however hard the decision or however inconvenient. It means caring enough about these things to change our lives, rather than making up self-serving excuses for staying the same.

A genuine concern needs to be thought out carefully, on the basis of our experience. And whatever else it may mean, following our conscience means behaving in a decent, honest way, with integrity.

The right to conscience must not be trivialized. An opinion, no matter how strongly held, is not necessarily conscience. Part of following our conscience means knowing what is important; knowing, also, that there is more than one way to serve God..

## A SIMPLE LIFE

John learned to be a tailor to earn his living. His customers brought him cloth that they had woven themselves, and he made cloaks or bonnets from it. He could quilt a petticoat or plait a pair of bridle reins for a horse. He also owned a shop where he sold shirts, trimming for dresses, tea and chocolate. However, he felt that his shop was just doing too well. He was making too much money! It looked as though the shop was going to grow very large.

John believes that each person should live a simple life, taking only such food, clothes, and shelter as they really need them. Then it is everyone's job to share with others who do not have enough of these necessities. People are meant to make enough money for things they really

## A SIMPLE LIFE

John, born in 1720, more than fifty years before the Declaration of Independence, came from a family of thirteen children who all lived with their parents on a farm. John attended Meeting with his family on Sunday and Thursday.

Most of the people John knew while he was growing up were Quakers. Sometimes a person raised this way can't see other people's point of view; John could. He is a kind, pleasant, likeable man who lived his life in a peaceful way. He didn't try to put others down, didn't say mean things to people. He did stand up for what he believed though. When almost everyone took slavery for granted, he said that slavery was wrong.

John based his actions on love. The first sentence in his Journal is "I have often felt a motion of love to leave some hints in writing of my experience of the goodness of God." Many people talk about loving everyone but not many people, then or now, really base their lives on love. John is one of the few who did.

When in his late teens John became very ill, he thought that he was going to die. He promised God that if he got well, he would be a better person. He did get well and tried to keep his promise. He spoke for the first time in Meeting when he was in his early twenties. He knew then that God wanted him to live a special life.

## EQUALITY

GOD IS OUR FATHER AND WE ARE ONE FAMILY IN GOD. GOD LIVES WITHIN US, SO THERE IS ONE RACE THE HUMAN RACE. BECAUSE GOD LIVES WITHIN US AS THE LIGHT, AND WE ARE CREATED IN HIS IMAGE WE ARE EQUAL. MEN AND WOMEN OF EVERY RELIGION, SKIN COLOR, AND ETHNICITY PARTICIPATE IN THIS EQUALITY.

Since everyone is created in the Image of God and Christ the Light lives within us, everyone is equal. Friends are a precious a chosen generation, who are the royal Seed of God, married and joined to Christ the Light. During Fox's lifetime the English king is one of Fox's worst persecutors, but Fox made everyone socially superior to him. "We are the gold tried in the fire and come forth brighter and brighter."

EACH OF US HAS GREAT VALUE

All people are equal and have value because God creates them in His Image.

God is knowable by everyone without an intermediary; everyone may be a mystic and know God intimately.

This is possible because everyone may speak to that which is pure, good, and true in themselves. War is so terrible because it destroys these valuable lives. Everyone may know that there is clear difference between right and wrong, good and evil. God is on the side of those who do good and

the devil is on the side of those who do evil. God's Kingdom is here and now. All these valuable individuals may live in it now and for eternity.

We all are of "great price unto the Lord." LETTER 259 1667

## WHAT DOES GENUINE EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN MEAN?

There are no gender barriers to getting to know and love God. "God pours forth his spirit upon all flesh." We are all sons and daughters of God. There may be great ethnic diversity and diversity of religious experience but there are no arbitrary intermediaries to cut women off from God, nor men either.

All "males and females" are one in Christ Jesus, have spiritual equality and equal access to God. Everyone may have spiritual insights. Each individual may speak, not just the most learned. The Lord's people, men and women, have the same sorts of responsibilities. They also have similar opportunities to use the gifts that God has given them.

All persons do not have the same abilities; some have a greater understanding. Nonetheless, God makes a way open for everyone and only expects us to live up to the measure within us.

Our job

is to improve this measure, so that we can see, hear and understand God's will for our lives. Fox emphasizes over and over again that God takes care of us. We just have to stand still in that Power which brings peace.

In marriage husband and wife are colleagues and co-workers. Again they share similar opportunities and responsibilities.

Each of us has a right to liberty of conscience, to be able to follow our conscience.

Fox makes this equality commonplace, very everyday, by saying that women should not stay at home and do the dishes while men go out and do interesting things.

balance between the protection of the environment and the necessity for jobs and products is needed.

Quakers have always believed that every person has value, is wholesome and good, because God lives within them. John Woolman thought that people were noble. This puts a tremendous responsibility on each individual to be informed and show some concern. If I am going to live in a world with fewer resources and more people, I will have to call on all that is noble, wholesome, and good within me to use natural resources and water in a way that is best for everyone.

John Woolman wrote about the connection between people's actions and their effect upon the environment. Both historically and today, mining and ranching have altered land and water. A special recent problem is the use of water from the lake for irrigation. If the water in Percha Creek is polluted when it flows into Elephant Butte Lake, this effects the quality of irrigation water used for chilies and pecans downstream. There is a connection between water and how much there is of it, how many people use it, for what reasons. A deep snow pack in Colorado – which, when it melts, supplies the water for Elephant Butte Lake in New Mexico – is connected with having or not having a garden, watering your fruit trees, being able to hose off your patio and what is more the kind of job you can find locally.



reading, and school in general, easier for them. Learning to read well and do well in school makes it easier for a child to live a peaceful life.

I traded books that I collected at a used books store for appropriate books for the children. My husband and friends have helped me. The number of books I have been able to give to children has grown from a few copies to hundreds of copies.

You will think that I am espousing this grand peace plan and then doing such a little thing. I think that for the children it is a grand thing.

## THE CONNECTION OF THINGS

I parked my 10 by 40 mobile home on a small mesa in Hillsboro, New Mexico in possibly the most beautiful spot in the state. The natural environment determines the economic base for Hillsboro and for Kingston, a neighboring village twelve miles west and one thousand feet higher. The area is a grassland and has been since the Early Holocene. In the middle Holocene it became dryer and became desert-grassland. Today it is desert grassland and Chihuahuan Desert scrub. Late in the nineteenth century American miners found gold and silver here. With minerals and grass, mining and cattle ranching are the traditional means of livelihood. Today tourism is also important.

Early in 1877 prospectors found gold ore along Percha Creek, which runs through Hillsboro and Kingston. The excitement of these discoveries encouraged further prospecting along the several branches of the creek. More gold is found, also some silver. Hillsboro and Kingston, typical prosperous mining towns, had saloons on every corner, open twenty four hours a day. Lawlessness is business as usual. This prosperity took a downturn in 1893 with the devaluation of silver. Hillsboro fared better than Kingston because it depended more on gold than silver.

When I lived in Hillsboro, New Mexico the owners of a nearby copper mine tried to re-open it. Today a mining operation needs lots of water. A concern about opening the mine is the “take down,” or lowering of the water table, the possible draining of the aquifers. But jobs are essential, too. Even the simplest life has to be funded in some way. A sensible, common sense

## GENUINE EQUALITY

Men and women have equal access to God and equal responsibilities and obligations in marriage.

Both men and women may use the gifts that God has given them.

In a world in which people behave as if created in God's image, there would be genuine equality for all. Everyone would be free to do God's will in their lives; we would be creative and live up to the image of God within us.

Using the gifts that God has given us means that everyone may have a career. We should have the opportunity to use our God given gifts.

All persons do not have the same abilities; some have a greater understanding. Nonetheless, God makes a way open for everyone and only expects us to live up to the measure within us.

All persons have

spiritual equality

equal access to God.

have the same sorts of responsibilities.

also have similar opportunities to use the gifts that God has given them.

In marriage husband and wife are colleagues and co-workers. Again they share similar opportunities and responsibilities.

## WE CAN ANSWER THAT OF GOD IN OTHERS.

GOD ALMIGHTY PRESERVE YOU THAT YOU MAY SPREAD HIS BLESSED TRUTH  
ABROAD, AND ANSWER IT IN ALL PEOPLE. AMEN  
WE CAN SPEAK TO THE GOD IN OTHERS

We can witness too, and answer the peace and goodness in all persons.

HOW HAS GOD MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO LOVE HIM,  
LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE, AND GET ALONG IN THE WORLD.

God is a God of Providence and has a plan for our lives. WE CAN BE PEACEMAKERS  
because we are created in God's the Image of God and are enlightened by Christ. We are able to  
answer that of God in everyone and treat others with courtesy and respect. We can live simple  
lives, sharing with others in God's peaceful kingdom..

How can all the problems of the world be healed?

First answer, that of God in everyone. Then believe in the Light who is Jesus Christ who  
enlightens everyone.

To find the God or the Good within every person the truth and goodness within  
one person speaks to the truth and goodness in the other person. We can  
understand others, have empathy with them, respond to that which is equal, just,

checklist, no universal formula exists that specifies what is a simple life and what is not. A belief that the primary reward of work should be well-being rather than money, making some time for creative thought and activity, are often components of such a life. But the simple life is not about me and what I want. It is a way of making the world work in a peaceful way and of sharing the world's resources.

One thing that the simple life is not is nostalgia for the past. Quakerism is a here and now religion - no little old ladies in bonnets. Whatever I am doing about the simple life should have meaning right now.

Almost all Friends claim that they are living a simple life. The idea of what constitutes this life varies from person to person. In the house of one Friend the Persian carpets are so thick that the visitor sinks down in them, while at the home of another an orange crate is a chair.

The best Quaker example of how to live a simple life is John Woolman, eighteenth century mystic and social reformer. Woolman writes that a person living the simple life may have the tools he needs. If this is a computer or other electronic gear and it is needful, fine. But this can't be used as a loophole to buy any gadget that catches my eye.

The choice to live a simple life is really a luxury. It is a great and wonderful gift to be able to choose. Only because I have way too much can I chose to live with less. Many people have a life of poverty. This really isn't a choice; it rarely is a simple life. Abundance makes simplicity possible.

If I am to live a simple life I must be committed to loving God, putting Him first in my life. My hope is to live a life that is unselfish in serving God and others.

## SHARING BOOKS

When my gardening became limited to raking leaves, my sharing took the form of getting very easy books for first graders – some of whom came from Spanish speaking homes where there were no books – who were having a hard time learning to read. I thought that if I got the child a very easy book and helped him or her to read it and when they could read it very well, then they would take it home to read to their Mother or Grandmother. This would make

Of course, I must only take my share in the first place and leave the shares of others alone. Living in the United States makes this difficult to do as we use a great proportion of the world's resources. But I must try to do this if I want peace, not war, some chance for people's dreams to come true for themselves and their children.

I should give back to the earth whatever I can by recycling, composting, improving the soil. For many persons, living the simple life means that there is a reverence for nature, seeing God in His works. With this reverence comes a responsibility for the proper use of the world's resources. One aspect of being created in the Image of God is that I try to make ecologically sound decisions – organic gardening, no more poisons, recycle, compost. Along with this reverence for nature may be the wish to be as self-sufficient as possible.

My goals must be realistic. Like cutting down on the amount of trash I produce. As there is no public recycling system where I live, I must set up my own. Of course, if I buy anything, get a newspaper, magazines, I will have trash. The amount of trash that my husband, our cat Vashti and I can accumulate in one week seems enormous. However, if I cut this by 50%, I will have done a good thing. If everyone would do this, it would be wonderful.

A simple life plan includes sharing food and clothing with others as I have it to spare and others need it. But often in our society today the need is for money or the need can most easily be met by giving money.

The genius of Quakerism is that it doesn't ask me to sell all that I have and give to the poor. Instead it says keep for oneself only that which is needful. Give the rest away. The Quaker religion is a practical one. It doesn't ask me to make myself a ward of the state. However, this puts a tremendous responsibility on me. If I call the shots, listen to MY conscience, go with MY experience, decide just what is needful and what MY share is and how much I should share with others, it's easy to be very SELFISH, to make all MY decisions to MY advantage. (George Fox says that I won't do this if I apply to that which is pure within me.)

Some synonyms for simple are unadorned, unaffected, free from deceit, unpretentious, plain living and high thinking. Uncomplicated is another synonym. No water in the kitchen, hauling it to cook and wash up is not the simple life. It's complicated, a labor intensive way of living. No

and true in ourselves and in every other person. We are courteous and show respect for the other person. This is one of our most important jobs.

No matter our social and economic position in life, we treat all people justly according to that of God in them. We loathe deceit and live in the righteous life and Power of God. If we are in business, we speak the truth. We must wrong no one, deal honestly with everyone, keep our word, keep accurate accounts, use just weights and measures.

### HOW CAN ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD BE HEALED?

*We must answer and witness to the God and the good within everyone. For Fox healing comes when everyone is brought to the power that answers the principle of God in all, the Light who enlightens them. All sinners must be brought to this power; all must see the good in themselves and in others. Then everyone must know and believe in the Light who enlightens them even if they have sinned.*

*God cares for us so that we may live in the world by giving us the Light to live within us and to enlighten us. He creates us in His Image. His Kingdom on earth is a peaceful and joyful one. He shows us how to answer the God in others, that which is good in them. In this way we can understand others and get along with them.*

### TO ANSWER THE GOD IN OTHERS IS UNIVERSAL

We must answer that of God in *everyone*. Answer the witness of God in *all* that they may come to the Truth. Even captives in Algiers, are able to answer the spirit of God “both in the Turks and Moors and the rest of the captives.”

We should live and walk in Christ and answer the Truth of God in *all people*. 406

One of Friends’ most important jobs is to answer that of God in every person, *every man on earth*, answer that which is equal, just and true in ourselves and in *every man and woman*

Answer the Truth in the *oppressed*.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

WE LIVE IN GOD'S PEACEFUL AND JOYFUL KINGDOM ON EARTH; WE WILL LIVE IN GOD'S HEAVENLY KINGDOM FOR ETERNITY.

*True peace is known only in God's kingdom. We are citizens of this heavenly Kingdom in which all the faithful live in this kingdom in this world and the next.*

God's Kingdom is not a human kingdom but spiritual and eternal. We live in it now and will live in it forever. It is "come" and "coming." It is "come;" present within each person who consciously tries to do what God wants them to do with their lives, and who give Christ first place in their lives and loyalties. The Kingdom is also "come" with Christ reigning over the world. The Kingdom "coming" is the final stage of humanity. The petition: "Thy kingdom come" from the Lord's prayer indicates that Christ thought of the Kingdom in terms of the future. This Kingdom will never to be destroyed. God's goodness becomes the everyday standard for the universe.

We are to seek the glorious Kingdom of God, which stands in Righteousness and Holiness. The Kingdom is present right now so we needn't be concerned about necessities like food, drink and clothes because they will follow. (Fox wants everyone to prosper in the world; the Kingdom of

person suggesting it had, I am sure, meant it for a small family. I have to admit that the first thing I thought about was adding a porch.

A simple life is an important part of following the path to Quaker peace. A simple life has God as its center and one main direction, to serve Him. It is a plan, consciously made, to have the physical part of life under discipline so that there will be more time for the spiritual: time to say one's prayers and meditate, time for family, time to read or study. But garden, house and job are also ways of loving God and showing this love. I should, of course, have some concern for the well being of others as well as my own.

God is a God of order, balance and harmony. I need balance, order and harmony in my life. I need to serve God and do His will. Part of this service, but not all of it, is earning a living and caring for my family. I shouldn't use all our time and energy doing this though. It seems to me that John Woolman, the best example of living the simple life, makes it sound easier than it is. But John's life shows me the spirit in which mine should be lived. He pricks my conscience and inspires me to do better things in the world.

## MY FAIR SHARE OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES

As there get to be more and more people and fewer and fewer resources in the world, there is more competition, more violence expended to acquire them. The peaceful way is sharing. There would be plenty to go around if I would take only my fair share, what I need, and share with others who do not have enough. I have to have material possessions but they should not determine my worth as a person; possessions should not be the most important thing in my life.

A simple life is one of the few peaceful alternatives that gives all people the possibility of a life of dignity and respect. A simple life is a peaceful answer to both individual problems and the world's ills. If I lived a simple life, the world would work much better, be a more peaceful place. A simple life is not a life of poverty though. I don't want to be poor or cold or hungry and I don't want anyone else to be either. Instead I must try to live on the lowest economic level consistent with what God wants me to do. I need to buy useful, necessary things, recycle everything I can.



## EQUALITY

One of Fox's new ideas is that there should be genuine equality for both men and women. He lives in a time of rigid class structure, with no real equality for men, let alone for women. In our own time – where there is most probably the closest approach to equality for women in the United States that there has ever been – it is not the genuine equality that Fox envisioned. He believes that men and women have equal access to God and equal responsibilities and obligations in marriage. Both men and women may use the gifts that God has given them.

The apostles encouraged aged, honorable and faithful women to prophesy and be teachers of good things. Aged, honorable and faithful seem a courteous way to describe older women. Fox also writes of excellent old women. He calls women, women and female, does not use degrading labels for them. He also puts up a spirited defense against women being left at home to do the dishes while men are out doing more interesting things.

Both the Old and New Testaments – the Law, Christ and the apostles – support the belief in equal responsibility and opportunity for women. Both encouraged women to prophesy and teach. Women certainly can have careers. In Fox's opinion the most important of careers – disciples, prophetesses and ministers. Both men and women have the opportunity to use the talent that God has given them.

Parents are to teach and order their own children so that God may be glorified in all their families. Every man and woman is to train their children in the fear of God. As husbands or wives, as parents, both have equal responsibilities.

## THE PATH OF QUAKER PEACE: THE SIMPLE LIFE

...love clothes my mind. WOOLMAN JOURNAL

### A Personal Point of View

At a Quaker discussion on how to live a simple life, a 400 foot living space is suggested as a fair share. So I bought an old 10 by 40 trailer. That didn't seem much space for just me and the

God helps us to do this.)

THERE CAN BE NO PEACE WITHOUT SIMPLICITY, EQUALITY, SHARING.

THE SIMPLE LIFE HAS GOD AT ITS CENTER

Rejoice you simple ones who love simplicity. Letter 16, 1652

A life as a peacemaker is not possible unless we live a simple life. The two essential elements of the simple life are equality and sharing. Because God creates us in His Image and lives within us as the Light, we are members of His family. This makes everyone equal. Sharing means to take only our fair share in the first place and then give away our surplus.

As there get to be more and more people and fewer and fewer resources in the world, there is more competition and we use more violence to acquire them. The peaceful way is sharing. There will be plenty to go around if I take only my fair share, what we need, and share with others who do not have enough.

We need material possessions of all sorts. But they should not determine our worth as a person; they should not be the most important thing in our lives.

A simple life has God as its center and one main direction, to serve Him. It is a plan, consciously made, to have the physical part of life under discipline so that there will be more time for the spiritual: time to say my prayers and meditate, time for family, time to read or study. But garden, house and job are also ways of loving God and showing this love.

A simple life style is one of the few peaceful alternatives that gives all people the possibility of a life of dignity and respect. A simple life is an answer to individual problems and the world's ills. If everyone lived a simple life, the world would work much better, be a more peaceful place.

## GOD'S HELPS US TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE IN A VIOLENT WORLD.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE IN A VIOLENT WORLD?

Fox believes that God has a plan for each of us to live peacefully in the world.

God creates us in his image.

Christ lives within us as the Light and teaches us.

Every person is valuable and all people are equal because we are created in the image of God and Christ the Light lives within us.

God makes it possible for us to find that which is good in others.

We live in God's peaceful Kingdom on earth; we will live in God's heavenly Kingdom for eternity.

We can live a simple life and share with others.

God cares for us so that we may live in the world by giving us the Light to live within us and to enlighten us. He created us in His Image. His Kingdom on earth is a peaceful and joyful one. He shows us how to answer the God in others, that which is good in them. In this way we can understand others and get along with them.

## PURITY: “LIVE LOVELY LIVES OF GOOD REPORT

We should lead not just good lives but wonderfully good lives. We should practice the virtues of honesty, justice, purity, modesty and temperance.

The basic underlying precept of all of George Fox’s beliefs and the one that makes them work is purity. For nothing else works unless there is purity. How is it possible to find the God within ourselves and others, follow our conscience, have faith? We must be pure to know God; we must look to that which is pure in ourselves to lead us to God. We should also look for that which is pure in others and watch over them in love.

God is pure; the Light leads us to purity and holiness so that we may be our best selves, our real selves.

Chaste is a synonym for pure. It means purity in conduct and intention. Holiness is also a synonym for purity. If something is pure, it’s not contaminated in any way.

We can act with integrity, be disciplined and capable of holy obedience. This is rather fancy. How does integrity translate into everyday behavior?

We don’t lie; we can be trusted.

We don’t pretend to be something that we’re not.

We follow our conscience.

Fox is a realist; he wants us to be realists, too. We should always deal with reality. If we wait upon God in that which is pure, we will see ourselves as we really are.

## TRUTH

Truth is not just the opposite of a lie; it is about real things, not illusions. It is purity, reality, something that is actually experienced or seen.

work God gives us the gift of the Power of an endless life, to live with Him forever.

Friends are to spread God's blessed Truth abroad, and answer it in all people; they are to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone. Friends should answer the Light and Truth in every man and woman, especially those who are oppressed. We are to spread the Truth abroad, answering that of God in everyone.

The problems in the world can be solved, Fox believes, if we answer and witness to the God and the good within everyone. All sinners must be brought to this power; all must see the good in themselves and in others.

They are to answer the Truth in all, both king and prince. For what do they know. Before the world was made, God may have decided to set them right where they are to preach by their lives and good conversation. Their lives are to shine and they are to be good examples.

# HOW TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE

## REMARKABLE GEORGE FOX; NO MAN'S COPY

William Penn, George Fox's contemporary, said of him that he is an original, no man's copy. He is unique, an individual with exceptional natural capacity, natural ability, a creative person who did original work. With a distinctive spirit, he influences others and the age in which he lives. He invents new religious ideas, looks at old ideas and makes them fresh and new or discovers new meaning in them. He recombines information in refreshing and different ways. The invention of new religious and social ideas is much more difficult than the invention of mechanical ones, and it happens less often.

The middle of the seventeenth century is a time of war, great differences between the rich and the poor, and marked social classes. Religious systems, the courts and marriage law were in turmoil; and George Fox brought order to them for Friends. He is inspired so that he knew who God is and how God related to people and people related to God. He has a rare insight and clarity in knowing what is right and wrong and how one knows which is which. He understands how people should treat each other; how husbands should treat wives and vice versa; how parents should treat their children and business people their customers. He reminds people that marriage is in the Light and based on purity so divorce is not an option.

## WORLD VIEW

Fox has a consistent and orderly world view keeping the inner and outward life in harmony. Spiritual values permeate all his beliefs; every aspect of his life has a spiritual component. He states that truth is the only way to communicate with others. By having only one standard, he simplifies the complex.

He believes that our actions have consequences and that we are responsible for them. He has a clear vision of what is right and wrong. It may be difficult to always be responsible and try to do what is right but the reward of living with God in His Kingdom on earth and in heaven make it the only possible goal in life. God is present and He is in charge.

work God gives the gift of the Power of an endless life, to live with Him forever.

Friends are to spread God's blessed Truth abroad, and answer it in all people; they are to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one. Friends should answer the Light and Truth in every man and woman, especially those who are oppressed. We are to spread the Truth abroad, answering that of God in everyone.

In 1681 Fox puts American Friends are on the spot and tells them that they must do what is just and right and answer the good in their government. For English Friends have admonished their own government to do what is just and right and will look askance at American Friends if they are "unrighteous in their judgement."

To find the God or the Good within every person the truth and goodness within one person speaks to the truth and goodness in the other person. We can understand others, have empathy with them, respond to that which is equal, just, and true in ourselves and in every other person. We are courteous and show respect for the other person. This is one of our most important jobs. No matter what our social and economic position is in this life, we treat all people justly according to that of God in them. We loathe deceit and live in the righteous life and Power of God. If we are in business, we speak the truth. We must wrong no one, deal honestly with everyone, keep our word, keep accurate accounts, use just weights and measures.

#### FIND THE GOD WITHIN EACH PERSON

Answering, which means to find the God or the Good within every person, is one of life's major purposes. We can witness too, and answer the peace and goodness in everyone. Friends should behave toward others by answering that of God in others and witnessing to the life of God in themselves. Even captives, persons in prison, have the responsibility of answering that of God in others.

Fox also believes that each of us has authority from God to know His Power which will never be shaken nor changed. We should answer the witness of God in everyone through this authority. We can also understand the power and authority of darkness through Him. To make this al



destroyed.

THIS KINGDOM WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED. GOD'S GOODNESS WILL BECOME THE EVERYDAY STANDARD FOR THE UNIVERSE. THIS KINGDOM IS NOT A HUMAN KINGDOM BUT SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL. WE LIVE IN IT NOW AND WILL LIVE IN IT FOREVER.

## FIND THE GOD WITHIN EACH PERSON

Answering which means to find the God or the Good within every person is one of life's major purposes. We can witness too, and answer the peace and goodness in everyone. Friends first job in behaving toward others is to answer that of God in them and witness to the life of God in themselves. Even captives, persons in prison, have the responsibility of answering that of God in others.

Fox also believes that each of us has authority from God to know this Power that shall never be shaken nor changed. We should answer the witness of God in everyone through this authority. We can also understand the power and authority of darkness through Him. To make this all

We cannot stand on the sidelines and leave getting to know and love God to some intermediary. We live in the Wisdom of God who is gentle, pure and easily entreated. We mind God's Power and let our patience be perfect, delight in our Faith.

It is possible to know God and the things of God, the Life that stands in God. We can know Him who made the world. Fox believes that one of the ways in which God shows that we are the precious elect is that we can know, feel, see, and hear Him. We may know one another in Christ; we may feel God's Power in ourselves.

This getting to know God must be done in fear, reverence and awe. But Fox makes it sound easy. He turns his mind within and waits until an entrance is made into his soul. It is not only possible to get to know God, but it is everyone's job in life.

Fox understands people, sin, temptation and addiction. Whatever any one is addicted to, the tempter comes in that thing and use it to try and control them. But the Light, the God within, shows each individual their temptation. Fox makes withstanding temptation sound easy. "When it troubles you," he writes, "just sink down in that which is pure and all will be healed, hushed and fly away."

Friends should keep out of the bustlings of outward war. For those who are in the Lamb Christ are in the wise state and have spiritual weapons. (To bustle is a verb; bustling is a gerund, a noun-verb. Fox adds an s and heightens the action and gives it more vitality. He does the same thing with require and requirings.)

A man of peace, Fox could not condone war in any form or participate in it for any reason. He did not resist violent attacks upon himself but accepted suffering even though he believed that those who persecute and kill are traitors to Christ. He prayed for and blessed his persecutors. For if we love our enemy, we cannot kill him or her.

Fox is a genius with words. "Healed, hushed and fly away." What a wonderful phrase. Another, "prize the love of the Lord above all things." His language is poetic:

Yoke the oxen, bridle the horses, tame the wild heifers; bring them to Christ's yoke. LETTER 65, 1654

Offer up the heavenly Fire in your Censers. For heavenly fire will consume all false offerings and sacrifice. Offer your heavenly fire, spiritual prayers, to Almighty God. LETTER 36, 1653

Confident that God specially chose and shaped him, Fox believed that he is called to be a saint and live a life of purity, holiness and innocence. His job is to love and worship God, live a life of generosity and peace, treat other persons with respect and courtesy and try to do some good in the world. He also believed that he had authority by the Power of God to judge, if he judged with the Spirit of Truth and by the Light; he also had the authority to understand the powers of darkness and to trample upon this power and its authority. He is a moralist, a social revolutionary, an egalitarian, a preacher and teacher but above all he is a mystic.

## GOD'S KINGDOM

Everyone is to keep out of plots and bustling of war for those who pretend to fight with carnal weapons for Christ are deceived. His warriors only fight with spiritual weapons. Friends are called to Christ's peace. All that pretend to fight for Christ are deceived; for his kingdom is not of this world, therefore his servants do not fight. His kingdom has both come and is coming to those who give him first place in their lives and loyalties. Christ the conquering Lamb will conquer all evil whether individual or universal.

The Kingdom is present right now so we needn't be concerned about necessities like food, drink and clothes because they will follow. Still we are to prosper in the world; the Kingdom of God helps us to do this.

The Kingdom is "come" and "coming." It is "come;" present within each person who consciously tries to do what God wants them to do with their lives, and who give Christ first place in their lives and loyalties. The Kingdom is also "come" with Christ reigning over the world. The Kingdom "coming," is the final stage of humanity. The petition: "Thy kingdom come" from the Lord's prayer indicates that Christ thought of the Kingdom in terms of the future. Fox does too. This Kingdom is never to be destroyed. God's goodness becomes the everyday standard for the universe. The Kingdom is not a human kingdom but spiritual and eternal.

Quoting Luke 17:21 in letter 300 Fox writes the Kingdom of God is known within. There we will find love, joy and peace for evermore. The Light enables us to see the Kingdom of Heaven. If we go from the Light, it is possible to lose our place in the Kingdom.

We must seek and enjoy the everlasting Kingdom of Peace in which we come to know peace and the end of war. In the Kingdom of Peace all people live in harmony and neighborliness. Friends live in the Peaceable Kingdom of Christ Jesus. (The Peaceable Kingdom is the vision of all people living in harmony and neighborliness, seeking the good and welfare of all.) We are to live in and mind the kingdom of Christ the Prince of Peace and not meddle with the powers of the earth. For Friends are heirs of this kingdom. We are not of this unrighteous world but are heirs of an eternal kingdom where no corruptible thing enters. Our weapons are spiritual yet mighty. Through them the strongholds of Satan, the author of wars, fighting, murder, and plots, will be

All persons do not have the same abilities. Some have a greater understanding and are better able to teach and stir up others into righteousness. Nonetheless, God makes a way open for everyone and only expects us to live up to the measure within us. For in this measure, which is given to everyone, we may see what is contrary to God. Our job is to improve this measure, so that we can see, hear and understand God's will for our lives. So we are to wait in our measure of the Spirit to learn of Him; keep in the measure of Life and come to feel our strength renewed. Fox emphasizes over and over again that God takes care of us. We just have to stand still in that Power which brings peace.

In Letter 320, 1676 section 5: some women are of a more large capacity and understanding and are able to stir up others into Righteousness in the Power of God. Fox is just complementing these particular women, not saying that women in general are better than men or that these particular women are better than men. Equality – which is for everyone – is access to God, similar responsibilities in marriage and the right to use one's gifts. It is not that everyone has the same abilities.

#### WHAT DOES EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN MEAN TO FRIENDS?

First and most important is equal access to God. The Lord's people are made up of both men and women. Both men and women have the same sorts of responsibilities. They also have similar opportunities to use the gifts that God has given them.

In marriage husband and wife are colleagues and co-workers. Again they share similar opportunities and responsibilities.

Because God lives within us as the Light, and we are created in His image. We are members of His family, we are equal. Men and women of every religion, skin color and ethnicity participate in this equality.

*Letter 320 contains the sentence stating the underpinning for the idea of Quaker equality. "And surely all the Lord's people are made up of both men and women." Surely is a very nice touch.*

## WE CAN LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE

*God is peaceful; we can be too.*

*Christ enlightens us.*

*God is our Father; we are His children so we have great value.*

*We live in God's peaceful kingdom.*

*We can answer to the God within every person.*

*We can care for others and share with them.*

## GOD CREATES US IN HIS OWN IMAGE

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Genesis 1:27

Quoting Genesis 1:26-27 and 5:1 George Fox wrote that God creates us in His Image. We can be like God, pure, holy, perfect and righteous. These are moral characteristics. What Fox seems to be saying is that we can be like God, in that we can live good moral lives.

Even though he is quoting Second Corinthians 3:18 in Letter 410: “with open face, behold as in a glass, the Glory of the Lord, and be changed into the same Image, from Glory to Glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord,” Fox seems to be describing a particularly vivid and wonderful personal experience of being in the Image of God.

## GOD IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM US

An image is a copy, not the real thing. For we certainly are not God; God is radically different from us.

“God who is invisible, by his invisible power and spirit, brings down the carnal mind in you, so the invisible and immortal things in you are brought to light.”

Invisible Lord, Invisible Power. Invisible means that God is spirit and can't be seen with the human eye. Fox knows that God is radically different from himself; the word invisible sums this up. (Other words, that show how radically different God is from us, are holy, numinous, other). Glorious and wondrous show the resplendent and awe inspiring nature of God.

It is possible for us to lose, or fall from, the image of God if we turn away from His pure spirit. But if we dwell in the Light and wait upon God, He can renew His Image. Then we can be made like God, created anew in His Image, pure, holy, perfect and righteous. Sinners may be healed if they dwell in the Light and wait upon God, for He can renew His Image.

Christ Jesus restores faithful men and women into the Image of God and makes them as kings and priests to reign upon the earth. Everyone may be renewed into the Image of God. For Fox, Christ is the answer; He is sufficient to heal all human ills. For He redeems man and woman up into the image of God, as they were before they fell. In Christ it becomes clear what being in the Image of God means.

## FAITHFUL WOMEN

When I think about equality, I tend to think of equality for women. The unstated premise is that men have equality so I need only be concerned about equality for women. This is, of course, not so. But Fox seems to be thinking along similar lines when he writes about faithful women and prophetesses such as Dorcas, Huldah and Deborah.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary, the mother of James, would seem to be first among equals. For it is they who first preached Christ's Resurrection to the apostles. These women were the first to believe and afterwards the apostles came to believe, too. Since God chose women for this special role, Fox seems to be saying, it follows that honorable women may preach and teach.

The apostles encouraged aged, honorable and faithful women to prophesy and be teachers of good things. Aged, honorable and faithful seem a courteous way to describe older women. Fox also writes of excellent old women. He calls women, women and female, does not use degrading labels for them. He also puts up a spirited defense against women being left at home to do the dishes while men are out doing more interesting things.

Both the Old and New Testaments – the Law, Christ and the apostles – support the belief in equal responsibility and opportunity for women. Both encouraged women to prophesy and teach.

## EVERY MAN AND WOMAN

Women certainly can have careers. In Fox's opinion the most important of careers – disciples, prophetesses and ministers. Every man and woman is to teach and order their own children. So that God may be glorified in all their families. Every man and woman should also train their children in the fear of God.

Both men and women have the opportunity to use the talent that God has given them. As husbands or wives, as parents, they both have equal responsibilities. Fox mentions the careers that he knew and thought were important..



them, making the idea of women preachers a reality.

Genuine equality for both men and women has always been a Quaker ideal. But the grubby, everyday reality is that there is very little equality between men and women, between the races. This is why the Quaker idea of equality and value for all people, because God lives within them and has created them in His image, is so important. In a world in which people behave as if created in God's image, there would be genuine equality for all. Everyone would be free to do God's will in their lives; they would be creative and live up to the image of God within them.

In Letter 360 written in 1679 Fox gives a concise, clear statement of the Quaker position on equality of men and women. He also gives the biblical underpinning for this belief.

#### NO BARRIERS TO GOD

There are no gender barriers to getting to know and love God. "God pours forth his spirit upon all flesh." We are all sons and daughters of God. There may be great ethnic diversity and religious experience but there are no arbitrary intermediaries to cut women off from God, nor men either.

#### MEN ARE MEN; WOMEN ARE WOMEN

Equality does not mean some sort of unisex to Fox. Men are men; women are women. Men are to be as Abraham, "the father of the faithful," women as Sarah, "a mother of Israel." Women and men, wife and husband, are like Eve and Adam before they fell. Help-meet in righteousness, made in the Image and likeness of God.

Help-meets is an expression used in the King James version of the Bible. A modern translation of the Hebrew might be colleague or co-worker. This is not a relationship of a superior and an inferior being but help-meets, husband and wife, sharing, helping each other. At a beautiful Quaker wedding one of the vows is to be allies, friends working together, not enemies.

Faithful men and women are to be like Aquila and Priscilla, Mr. and Mrs., friends of Paul. They were fellow helpers to the apostles. A congregation, which they began, met in their house, setting a pattern for many Friends to follow.

HOW CAN WE LIVE IN THE WORLD AS PERSONS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?  
ON BEING A BUSINESS PERSON IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.

*But there is the danger of drawing your minds into your business and clogging them with it. So that you can hardly do anything to the service of God, but there will be crying my business, my business. Your minds will go into the things and not over the things, and so therein you do not come into the image of God, in which is dominion. And so, when your minds are got into riches then, if the Lord do cross you and stop you take your goods and customers from you then that mind, that is cumbered, it will fret, being out of the Power of God. LETTER 131, 1656*

Fox understands the temptations that come with money. No matter how much it may be to a selfperceived advantage, Friends are not to

wrong any man or woman

covet the possessions of others

oppress anyone

live highly on other men's means

go beyond our capacity, nor reach after things more than we can justly perform.

We are to keep out of debt and keep our word in all our dealings. Any person who has done a wrong to anyone should be held accountable and must make restitution speedily.

ON BEING MARRIED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.

Marriage joins a man and a woman together in the Light. The right joining is the work of the Lord only for it is God's ordinance, not man's. It is heavenly and spiritual, sanctified when the couple follow the Spirit of God. In the beginning God made them male and female. So, in the restoration in the image of God, they are brought to join in one male with one female again. They will live together in Christian marriage, according to God's ordinance and his joining, to be help-meets together as long as they live.

## ON BEING A PRISONER IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

When threatened by the inquisitors, Katherine Evans – held by the Inquisition in the seventeenth century – believes that the Lord is sufficient to deliver her. Using Quakerly language she calls Christ, Light and Life, pure Life, the express image of His Father’s glory. In the letter to the Governor of Barbados Fox also calls Christ “the express image of the invisible God by whom all things were created.”

## WHO IS THIS LIGHT IN WHOM WE MUST BELIEVE?

The true Light comes from God the Father and is glorified with the Father; He is also the way to the Father of Light. No man comes to God but by the Light. Every man and woman has a light from Christ which leads to the Father.

Christ the Light enlightens every man and woman in the world but He is not of the world, being immortal and eternal. The Light comes from and gives knowledge of God. He is spiritual and eternal glorified with the Father.

The healer, Christ the Light, is concerned for all hurting, weary, sick, sinful humans. He is the binder up of the broken, restorer and seeker of the lost; he brings back those who are driven away. He is the Mediator between God and man, reconciles us to God, breaks our bonds of iniquity and blots out our sin.

The idea of all things becoming brand new, starting over, is an appealing one. For Fox the Light Christ makes everything new.

By believing in the Light, we become his children. We must own the Light that shines in our heart. (Own means to confess, acknowledge, be aware of the Light.) It doesn’t mean that we possess the Light, can tell Him what to do. We are obedient to Him, not He to us.

The Light Christ as a heavenly Light, a divine Light, a saving Light, a Heavenly Treasure within and the Light of the Glory of God. In the Light we receive the love of God. We should be content in the Light for He is comfort, wisdom, love, and mercy. The Light is pure, sufficient. The Light is spiritual but He gives material support as well. If we love and obey Him, He will clothe us.

is peace.  
reconciles us to God.  
reigns.  
saves us from sin.  
seeks and restores the lost  
is spiritual.  
is the True Light by whom the world was made.  
is the True Light who was glorified with the Father.  
is the True light who lighteth every man and woman.  
is the way, truth, and life.  
is wisdom which comes from above.

The Light is the healer. He is concerned for all hurting, weary, sick, sinful humans. He is the binder up of the broken, restorer and seeker of the lost; he brings back those who are driven away. He is the Mediator between God and man, reconciles us to God, breaks our bonds of iniquity and blots out our sin.

A Blessing:

*Dear hearts, hearken to the Light to be guided by Him. For if you love the Light, you love Christ. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ consider it. The Lord open your understandings to know Him!* LETTER 17, 1652

## EQUALITY

### ALL MEN AND WOMEN EXERCISE THEIR TALENTS

One of Fox's new ideas is that there should be genuine equality for both men and women. He lives in a time when rigid class structure exists with no real equality for men, let alone for women. In our own time – where there is most probably the closest approach to equality for women in the United States that there has ever been – it is not the genuine equality Fox envisioned. He believes that men and women have equal access to God and equal responsibilities and obligations in marriage. Both men and women may use the gifts that God has given

should express only what the Light reveals to us. Then we will say what is right and there will be no dissension, just true unity.

## SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

The Light

is beautiful.

was present before the world began.

binds up the broken.

blots out sin.

breaks the bonds of iniquity.

brings back that which was driven away.

comes from the Father of Light.

comprehends all ways.

condemns sin.

created all things.

discovers all things and makes them readily seen and understood.

teaches everyone.

is eternal, immortal.

is the first step to peace.

gives us Faith.

is the Kingdom of heaven.

lets us see our sin and saves us from this sin.

lets us see Christ, the way to the Father of Light, from whence light comes.

is Life.

lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

is the Mediator between God and man.

is not of the world.

is not natural and created.

is the only way to the Father.

There are not individual Lights; the Light is one. The Light is consistent, doesn't differ in different persons, male or female, young or old. Always the same, He doesn't differ throughout time. The Light understands the world. The Light is given to all, even to unbelievers.

#### DWELL IN THE LIGHT WITHIN

When writing of our relationship with the Light, Fox uses phrases such as dwell in, turn to, wait in, walk in, stand still in Him. If we dwell in the Light, we will receive eternal Life. When we walk in the Light we have fellowship with the Son and the Father and with one another as well. When we wait in the Light, He turns us to holiness. All we have to do is love the Light and wait. God does the rest.

#### THE LIGHT CALLS US TO REPENTANCE

The Light is not some indulgent grandfather. The Light condemns, shows sin; the Light keeps us chaste. He shows us what is right and what is wrong, distinguishes the precious from the vile. He will show us our lives, how we have acted, whom we have hurt.

The Light sets a watch over all our thoughts, words, and actions. He also helps us so that we can change, and will give us the strength, the courage to give up whatever we are doing wrong. If we speak, think, or act in any way that is against God, the Light will reprove us. But especially, He will lead us from loving and worshiping ourselves and caring only for bodily comforts, to the worship of God.

#### WARS AND QUARRELS

The Light leads us out of the occasion of wars and out of wars themselves. He casts out quarrelsome spirits and leads into true peace.

#### UNITY PURITY AND TRUTH

Unity, purity and truth are words that George Fox uses often to describe the Light. If we come to conclusions based on human reasoning, and if we try to dominate others, this is wrong. We