

# Is Real Christianity Alive Today?

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## *Opening Prayer*

Heavenly Father, Thy Presence and the Great Calmness and Joy of Christ is with us. And we pray we may be able to retain this Calmness throughout every action, for we realize that to have Thee is our first and greatest need. And we offer to Thee, thinking that perhaps it will move Thee, our love. Receive us, bless each one of us. Om, Peace, Amen.

Doctor plays "Cloud Covered Christ," and the hymn "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" on the organ, followed by Mrs. Kennel and Mrs. Gunsullus playing a violin and organ duet of "Death and the Maiden" by Franz Schubert, 1817.

The subject this morning is, "Is Real Christianity Alive Today?" "Is Real Christianity Alive Today?"

Let us ask first the question – what is real Christianity? Real Christianity is that which gives God contact, and makes the actuality of Christ contact and Consciousness, dynamic to your consciousness. That's what real Christianity is. Not the outward form of religion. But actual God contact, which makes the Presence of Christ dynamic to your consciousness. And so with that in mind, let us proceed.

We do not mean hopes and words. Those are not enough. We do not mean, as the Master used to say, "Churchianity," but Christ-ianity, or Christianity. Real Christianity means God contact. We do not mean the rituals and theories, which speak about Christ Consciousness, but the actual being one with that Consciousness. That is real Christianity.

In churches you'll find if you look about, that there is lots of stress put on the rituals, the meetings, the socials, and rummage sales, so to speak. And speaking about rummage sales, one lady said to me, she said, "We had a rummage sale down to our church, and all the ladies took their husbands." So let's not stop there, but go further and realize true religion, or real Christianity.

Most people do not know what real Christianity is. They do not have the realization to attain that God contact. Now, real Christianity is clearly represented, vividly shown, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of St. John, the 44<sup>th</sup>, [4]5<sup>th</sup>, and [4]6<sup>th</sup> Verses. And here is what we read: "Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me believeth not on me but on Him that sent me."

Now right there, real Christianity means that the Consciousness of God the Father, and the Christ within, which is simply God's Presence throughout all creation, is the same. And so that's one thing that we must know, if we are real Christians. Then he goes on to say, "And he that seeth me seeth Him that sent me." In other words, this "seeth" means that true Christianity is tangible. It is not something vague. It is not made up of just words. It's Realization of the Presence of God as the Christ Consciousness, which can be seen. Now "seeth" does not mean "comprehendeth." It means to actually see the Light of Christ.

And then in the 47<sup>th</sup> Verse. . .the 46<sup>th</sup> Verse, "I am come a light unto the world that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." In other words, the Light of Christ is an actuality. It is not just a figure of speech. It is something real and tangible, which can be seen and realized. Now when you have that, darkness cannot stay. Darkness must pass away.

Now the second question is this. Is Christianity, real Christianity alive today? Yes, it is. It is especially alive to those whose paths have crossed the path of the Master. There is no question about it. Whoever has had his path cross the Master's path has had a taste of real Christianity, because the Master was a great and living channel, and is a living channel of Christ Consciousness. And whoever has met him, or come in contact with him, has absolutely felt real Christianity. And so it is alive to those who, whose path has crossed the Master's path.

You will remember, those of you who have met him, or heard his lectures, heard him speak, that whenever you came in his presence, although you may have had many, many questions, still all your questions disappeared. Why, because you were experiencing real Christianity. You were experience...experiencing this Presence of Christ Consciousness within – and when you experience that, all your questions are answered. You were satisfied, because that's the Presence of God within you made dynamic to your consciousness. That's the point. Remember, real Christianity makes the Presence of Christ dynamic to your consciousness. Not a vague thing. Not a thing of imagination. Not a lot of words. Not Churchianity, but Christ-ianity, Christianity.

Now going on – also, real Christianity is alive today to those who do, those who do regularly do what? Practice the original yoga as given by Lord Krishna, and live the original Christianity, as taught and lived by Jesus. It is alive to those who will do that – everyone who will – Christianity is now alive.

In that little booklet of the Master's, The Highway to the Infinite, we read this: "The Self-Realization, the Self-Realization Fellowship teachings, which Paramhansa Yogananda brings to the world today are a true and harmonious blend of the original Christianity taught by Jesus, and the original yoga taught by Krishna."

The original Christianity was lived and taught by Jesus. Also by Paul and others, because you will remember Paul said, "I die daily." In other words, he got out of Churchianity – outward consciousness, worldly consciousness – daily he left that aside and he rejoiced in Christ. And in Krishna's time, Lord Shankara's or later, said, he didn't say, "I am this body, I am Lord Shankara." He said what? "I am He, I am He, Blissful Spirit, I am He."

And so you can see, real Christianity means being one with the Christ Consciousness within. Practicing the original yoga, which Jesus and the apostles practiced and lived, and also, or rather the original Christianity, and also practicing the proper and right yoga, which simply means Union with Christ within, that's all – that which was practiced by Krishna, Lord Shankara, and many others.

Now, there are many references to real Christianity in the Bible. I'll just take one or two. For instance, in St. Matthew, 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Verse, we read – and I have given it to you many times, "If thine eye be single, thy body will be filled with light."

Real Christianity means that we must know the Single Eye. Not just talk about it. Not just read about it, and feel a little upliftment. But we must absolutely be one with the Single Eye, which is the Christ within; which is the All-seeing Power of God within us, throughout all creation, as the Christ Consciousness, which sees in front, behind, above, beneath, all about. That's the Single Eye. Now, if we have the Consciousness of that, if that is dynamic to our consciousness, then we are real Christians. Then we are practicing real Christianity. Not until.

Then going on – in Revelation, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter; here we find aspects of real Christianity, that these are discernible; concentration of the Christ within; not just in imagination. They are knowable, discernible. Concentrations of His Presence as the Great Light in the different Centers of the spine, where they're spoken of as the seven golden candlesticks – the seven angels, the stars, and the seven churches. Now these are knowable, if we are practicing, if we have real Christianity. Not just Churchianity. If we have that, then we know these things to be Reality, and they can be known.

And then finally in Revelation, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter, is asked this question, who, who is worthy to unlock the seven seals? "Who is worthy to open the book and unlock the seven seals," in the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Revelation, and thereby open the trapdoors that we may escape from this limited consciousness into the expansive Consciousness of Christ. Who is worthy to do that?

Then it goes on to say, "No man in heaven, nor in earth can open<sup>1</sup>," is able to open this book of, with the seven seals; in other words, no man following ordinary religion, or outward consciousness. "No man" means not anyone with outward consciousness, that's all, can open these seven seals. No man following Churchianity can do it. But those who are real Christians can do it. Who can, who is worthy to do that? Real Christians, real Christians – those who have made the eternal truths of the words of Jesus dynamic to consciousness. They are real Christians – no one else. Those who have made those eternal truths in Jesus' words their own, who have become one with him. When he says, "I am the light of the world." Those who have realized those words and made them their own, they are real Christians. They can open the book. They can unlock the seven seals, and release their consciousness that it may, may merge in the Universal Presence of Christ as the Christ Consciousness.

Jesus' words are what? "I am come a light unto the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." Jesus said, my consciousness is the Christ Consciousness – is a light, can be perceived. You can become one with it – he who believeth that. In other words, he who merges in that Light and knows it to be the Light of Christ – to him there shall be no doubt.

And so those real Christians who do that, who practice yoga regularly they can unlock the seven seals. They are real Christians.

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 5:3

In conclusion, real Christianity is alive today to all who are willing to follow the original yoga and live real Christianity by being one with the Christ Consciousness within. Real Christianity is alive also to all who will follow Self-Realization Fellowship yoga. For the Master, Paramhansa Yogananda, came to give a special dispensation that all who will might be real Christians, by being one with the Holy Vibration within, the Christ Consciousness within. "On whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining." That is, on whom you see the Spirit descending, and then you see that those people are one with that Spirit, they are baptized by the Holy Ghost. They are one with Christ Consciousness.

And so real Christianity is alive to many, many people, and can be alive to all who will follow one who knows the road, who is one with Christ Consciousness right here, and now, our own Master, Paramhansa Yogananda.