

THE TRAIN STRIKE - RIGHT OR WRONG?

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

Sydney has been experiencing a train strike. We have all been inconvenienced; it has taken longer to get to work; some people haven't been able to get there at all. It has cost us all extra money if only in the extra petrol that we have had to pay for. Some people in the community have lost a lot of money through the run down of trade. I passed a railway feeder bus the other day, it was standing quite empty at the station. That operator must have been loosing quite a lot of money as he would still have to keep his timetable and pay his outgoings. There must be a lot of small businessmen like that.

The railway strike raises the question, is it a right thing to do? because if it is right, then of course we wish the strikers well. It is always good to do what is right. But is it right to put all your fellow citizens to tremendous inconvenience and a lot of extra expense so as to get a claim for extra pay heard more quickly? If it is not right, then the railway men should not have gone on strike, because noone ought ever to do what is wrong. Moreover if it is wrong then the government should frame laws to stop wrongdoing, especially wrongdoing that injures other people and the law should be framed to punish those who injure people by doing wrong. This may sound radical but that is what the law does, punishes wrongdoers. But at this stage I am only asking the question, is it right or is it wrong to go on strike like this? We ought to answer this because it must be either right or wrong, and if it is right we ought to wish the strikers well, but if it is wrong they ought not to do it and the government should do what it can to stop the wrongdoing and punish the offenders.

But those who do right should be praised. You ought to make your mind up about the strike whether it was right or wrong. Christians will be helped in making up their mind by thinking about Jesus' life, would He have gone on strike and if not why not? His life was a life of serving other people's interests rather than His own. Indeed He gave His life for us and He taught that this was the way God had created the world that we should serve one another and it is God's own character to serve others. We can all put this into practice each day, seeing how we can serve other people and not thinking primarily about ourselves and our own interests. Christians know that God will look after their interests if they look after God's, which means if they look after other people's interests, for God makes other people's interests His own. He serves them, Christ served others and if we serve God it will mean that we will be looking for opportunities of serving other people knowing God will look after our interests because that is His character. He will look after us as we look after others.

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