

Sunday is an important day for the whole community. There is a simple principle, namely that on Sunday we should not pursue our ordinary commercial work or business unless it is an essential service or a comparable work. In other words, it is not a day for work, then by sport or business. There is a day not only for rest but a day for fellowship within the family and with one's own friends. This is true for every member of the community, and for Christians in addition it is a day for fellowship with each other through their common Christian faith and fellowship with God in worship. Sunday is a hallowing day for fellowship is one of the highest human activities and our traditional Sunday has contributed to the possibilities of fellowship by being a

SUNDAY TRADE

D.B. KNOX

God made men and women for fellowship. The basic unit for human fellowship is, of course, marriage and the family, and in addition there is the wider fellowship of our circle of friends and neighbours and acquaintances. The principle and basis of fellowship is, of course, love, the attitude which appreciates other people for their own sake and not for something which they can contribute to our own benefit. Love accepts people as they are, though not necessarily as they are as they are. It accepts them for themselves. Jesus' life is the example for us in this respect. He had fellowship with all whom he met. He ate and drank with publicans and sinners as well as with people like Simon the Pharisee and other religious persons. He did not of course approve of the way of life of publicans and sinners but

'THE CHRISTIAN FAITH'

Sunday is an important day for the whole community. There is a simple principle, namely that on Sunday we should not pursue our ordinary commercial work or business unless it is an essential service or a charitable work. In other words, it is not a day for making money whether by sport or business. Thus it becomes a day not only for rest but a day for fellowship within the family and with one's own friends. This is true for every member of the community, and for Christians in addition it is a day for fellowship with each other through their common Christian faith and fellowship with God in worship. Sunday is a humanising day; for fellowship is one of the highest human activities and our traditional Sunday has contributed to the possibilities of fellowship by being a free day.

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He accepted them as men and women and did not withdraw from them. He loved them for their own sake and served them as He had opportunity. In this Jesus reflected the character of God who loves us though we are rebels and sinners, and serves us. He makes the sun to rise on the bad and the good and He provides us all with our daily food; but chiefly He serves us by becoming our Saviour so that we may enter into eternal fellowship with Him on the basis of forgiveness through the Cross. Already He gives us His Holy Spirit, that is, Himself, in fellowship. Fellowship and love is a truly human activity for it is a reflection of the divine. If we withdraw our fellowship like Scrooge in Dickens "Christmas Carols", we become shrivelled up as persons, but if we truly love one another, not restricting our fellowship but extending it to all who come within our orbit we will grow as persons.

Fellowship needs time and this is the great value of the Christian Sunday. In our tradition Sunday was freed by legislation from the ordinary avocations and occupations of the week so that it becomes a free day for all citizens. All members of the family are free at the same time and so can engage together in common activity either within the family or with neighbouring family and friends. Thus Sunday becomes an opportunity of fellowship in a way that it would not be if half the work force were engaged in earning its living on that day. Powerful commercial interests press for opportunities of making money on Sunday. For example the liquor trade wants wider opportunities for selling their product on Sunday. This is not in the interests of our community Sunday, for alcohol is destructive of fellowship, especially within the family. Moreover, if increased .

Sunday commercial activity becomes general on Sunday, Sunday will cease to be a free day on which the members of the family and one's friends can have the day for common friendship and doing things together.

There will always be essential services required on Sunday but the principle should be to keep these to a minimum in order that the day may be free for citizens in general. We should all be united in our opposition to any change of the principles which govern our free Sunday through the granting of opportunities to sections of the community to commercialize Sunday in the interests of profit.

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