

SHARING YOUR RELATIONSHIP

D.B. KNOX

'THE CHRISTIAN FAITH'

If you look at the ads on TV you will realise that they are aimed at getting us to spend our money buying things, as though the accumulation of material possessions increases happiness. But of course this is not so as we all know from experience. Centuries ago Jesus said that a man's life consists not in abundance of the things he possesses. Happiness lies in relationships and relationships are not dependent on the amount of things you possess. People who lived 100 years ago were just as happy as we are if not more so. In fact possessions often hinder happiness. They bring worry and also, for example, if you use your possessions as status symbols, that disrupts your relationships with other people. It separates you from other people. Relationships depend on other person centredness and so we ought to share our possessions; that helps relationships. If we want to be truly happy, the most important relationship to get right is our relationship with God. We are so self-centred that God is pushed right onto the edge of our life if not pushed out altogether. Yet we know in our hearts, He exists and we know in our consciences how we ought to please him, and so we can never really be happy if this fundamental relationship is wrong. So we should get our relationship with God right by making Him the centre of our life instead of ourselves, just as we should be other person centred in regard to our neighbours.

I went into a highly respectable bookshop this week and was impressed by the large number of books on sex and on body culture and massage and so on. Just like the ads on TV the books show what people are interested in. People are seeking happiness. But it doesn't come by buying one thing after another and it doesn't come by seeking kicks. But here again what brings pleasure is not the physical but the personal relationship, for example, sex is for relationship. If we make it self-centred we bring it under the law of diminishing returns. But if we use sex for relationships with our spouse in a life long marriage, being other person centred not only in sex but in all our relationships in the home, we will find that happiness instead of diminishing increases because personal relationship goes on increasing and in fact there is no limit to it. That is why we should get our relations with God right now while there is still time in order that we might enjoy increasing fellowship with Him and with one another in etern'ity. Life is meant to be shared.

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THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
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