

World Changer
“Martin Luther”
July 1, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

Martin Luther’s 3 Questions for Followers of Jesus today:

1. Have I Embraced my divine discontent ?

¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
Romans 1:17

“I began to understand that in this verse the justice of God is that by which the just person lives by a gift of God, that is by faith. All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates.”
Martin Luther
(Preface to the Latin Works, 1545)

2. Am I living with faith based optimism.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
Matthew 5:10-12

¹² . . . When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³ when we are slandered, we answer kindly.
1 Corinthians 4:12-13

“Faith is God’s work in us that changes us and gives new birth from God. It makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts, and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living and creative, active and powerful thing. Because of it you freely, willingly and joyfully serve everyone, and suffer all kinds of things.”
Martin Luther
(Introduction to St Paul’s Letter to the Romans; 1522)

MARTIN LUTHER WAS CRITICIZED FOR. . .

- (A) BEING IGNORANT**
- (B) BEING TOO VULGAR**
- (C) BEING TOO BIBLICAL**
- (D) REJECTING TRADITION**
- (E) BEING DELUSIONAL**
- (F) BEING TOO HAPPY**

3. Am I Committed to radical obedience?

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
1 Peter 2:9

“Never become satisfied in ridding yourself of that which is destructive — never cease the fight against the devil & sin.”
Martin Luther
(Althaus; Theology of Luther; p.164)

TODAY’S COMPLACENCY IS TOMORROW’S CAPTIVITY.

SAM RODRIGUEZ;
(President of National Hispanic Christian
Leadership Conference)

3 KEYS TO OBEDIENCE

(A) BE A PERSON OF PRAYER.

“If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.”
— Martin Luther

(B) BE SURRENDERED TO THE WORD OF GOD.

“Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scriptures or by plain and clear reasons and arguments, my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me.”
— Martin Luther

(C) RIGOROUSLY FOLLOW THE WILL OF GOD.

“I would never have thought that such a storm would rise from Rome over one simple scrap of paper.”
— Martin Luther

Discussion Questions

- 1.** How do you know that you are a Christian? What does “the just shall live by faith” mean to you?
- 2.** What is God beginning to “stir in your heart” and may be asking you to join Him in doing?
- 3.** What keeps you from fully following Jesus? How might Martin Luther’s testimony be an encouragement for you (be specific)? If people were to make a list criticizing you, what might be on that list? Would what is on that list honor Jesus?
- 4.** Do “Optimism” & “Obedience” characterize you? How might you increase in both these?