

The Straight Path

By Santiago Lange



Reading the theological, philosophical and historical literature of our day, we understand that we find ourselves in a post-modern period. "Deconstructionism" is what philosophers call this stage in history and "Revisionism" is what historians call it. These rather complicated sounding terms basically refer to the setting aside of the reality of life and the embracing of whatever we, I or you, think ought to be truth (whether what we espouse squares with the facts of life or not). Our western world is absolutely surrounded by this sort of thinking. Sin is paraded around as nothing more than "sickness"; drug consumption is spoken of as "recreation"; the traditional concept of family is considered as outdated and an endangered species. Evil is being labeled as good. Immorality is heralded as "sexual freedom." Abortion is sugar-coated and described by some as "post-conception birth control". White is called black; green is called yellow, orange is called brown-- that type of twisted thinking defies centuries and millennia of truth that has been embraced by Judeo-Christian culture.

Christians understand that we live in a culture that's gone badly astray, a world that is desperately in need of wisdom and insight into the reality of life. In his book *Christ and Culture Revisited* D.A. Carson wrote...

„Sin is social: although it is first and foremost defiance of God, there is no sin that does not touch the lives of others“.

And this precarious condition raises the question: are there still absolutes? Which values, morals, ethics and mores, if any, should we embrace to give us the most flourishing life that we can know of?

The apostle Paul admonishes us...

„Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect“—Romans 12:2 [ESV].

As Christians we need to stop along life's road and take stock. Although it might have been winding and steep, we see how God directed us by His faithfulness. When we face our run amok culture, we sometimes forget His guidance. We may only see confusion and dangers. But looking back, we will also hear the clear voice of Jesus, who is Truth, and experience his presence as a steadfast traveling companion who has promised never to leave nor forsake us until, in our journey, we reach our true home. As D.A. Carson reminds us in *Christ and Culture Revisited*...

„Our true city is the new Jerusalem, even while we still belong to Paris or Budapest or New York.“ □