



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Are Quakers Christian?

I live in the state of Pennsylvania which was founded by a Quaker named William Penn. I recently had the opportunity of touring a local 1850 Quaker meetinghouse, which they still use but having no utilities. As a historian, I learned a lot about their history. However, as a Christian, I did not know anything of what they believe and how they do unprogrammed worship, so I asked.

I soon learned that the question was difficult to answer. There is a wide range of divisions from conservative, liberal, evangelical, holiness universalist, with both programmed and unprogrammed worship. For this devotion, I will talk about the beliefs from the websites which the local group referred me to. With what I learned, I will list related Bible verses, for you to read, compare and pray over.

- “Most Quakers believe in... something. It’s when you ask if that something is “God” that the answer becomes more complicated... So, can an atheist be a Quaker? Sure!”¹ Ps 14:1
- “It’s not uncommon for Friends who believe with all their heart that Jesus was the Son of God, to worship side by side with Friends who aren’t so sure or who don’t even think it matters much one way or the other.”¹ II Cor 6:14, Rom 14:11, Act 4:12
- “Nearly four centuries later, many Liberal Friends continue to de-emphasize the afterlife, or they disbelieve in it altogether. There is a contrasting vision of the afterlife, known as universal salvation, which argues that a truly loving God would never subject a person to eternal torment, and that heaven could not truly be paradise if those in it knew any of their loved ones were suffering in hell. Those Friends who identified as Christ-centered did not consider a belief in eternal life central to Christian faith.”¹ Luke 16:19-31, John 14:1-3, Rev 20:15
- “Friends have believed there is “that of God in everyone.” ..The *inner* light is “something of God” that could be found within every human soul... They know by experience that it is a potential force for good in every human being.”¹ Rom 3:10-12
- “Allowing personal actions to witness to others instead of verbalizing testimony.”¹ Rom 10:9, II Tim 4:2, Mark 16:15, Acts 14:7
- “The Quaker testimonies are often simplified into the acronym SPICES = simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and service.”¹ Is 64:6, Eph 2:9, Matt 7:22, 23
- “Meeting for Worship with no previously arranged order. Any person may minister out of a period of silent waiting on the Lord. These meetings have no clergy and no pre-arranged singing, offertory, Bible reading, etc. The service unfolds according to the leadings of those in attendance to speak, to sing, to read, etc. or to be silent.”¹ Acts 14:21, Col 3:16 2, Peter 1:20
- “The Bible is an anthology of human authors' beliefs and feelings about God, rather than Holy Writ., Friends argue that they feel personally moved by God rather than following an ethical code.”² II Tim 3:16-17, PS 119:11, Joshua 1:8
- “Universalist Friends affirm religious pluralism: there are many different paths to God and understandings of the divine reached through non-Christian religious experiences, which are as valid as Christian understandings.”² John 14:6, Acts 4:12
- They have no pastors, priests or teachers. Eph 4:11, I Tim 5:17
- They do not have baptism Matt 28:19 or take communion. Luke 22:19-20
- They do not talk about personal sin. I John 1:8,10
- They have no firm religious dogma. II Tim 4:3

“If you’re put off by Christian rhetoric, spirit will likely frame its message to you in a different vocabulary.”¹

“Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God.” I John 4:1

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Be sure to watch the videos on Quaker.org and learn their answers to “Are Quakers Christians?”.

¹Quaker.org ² en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Quakers

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