

## Dan's Basic Quaker Principles

(a work in progress)

A. There is one, even Christ Jesus, who can speak to thy condition. We can know God with certainty, because the Inward Christ—that of God within us—will teach us what God wants us to know. We have access to this teaching when we keep low and quiet in our own minds, and wait for the still, small voice to speak.

B. Because Christ has come to teach his people himself, we are living now in the very kingdom of God. Though the kingdom isn't yet achieved, it is coming into being, and by our living as though it were already here, we are part of God's work of bringing it into being.

C. Experience: it isn't as important what the priests say, or even the scriptures, as it is what you know from your own experience of the same Spirit which enlightened those who wrote the scriptures. We understand what we read in the scriptures by the Light of the Spirit, and without that Light, we cannot claim any spiritual knowledge.

D. Profession of faith is not sufficient faith. Only openness to the inner work of Christ constitutes faith—openness to Christ's ongoing work of convicting and enlightening those who are willing to be taught and molded.

E. The light of Christ enlightens every one, and has no need of a mediator, of any human being who decides upon whom God will show favor. God is perfectly capable of doing this work Godself.

Likewise, forms are not needed to guide and direct worship. True worship is in waiting to feel the power and presence of the Lord, and no form is necessary for this waiting.

F. When we are knit unto the Lord, we become knit to one another, as well. We live as people knit to one another when we live in “gospel order.” Gospel order is a way of orienting our relationships, our work and vocation, our interests and pursuits so that they are consistent with God’s redeeming love for the world.

G. The kingdom way of living which God teaches us, the covenant community which we create: these are our testimonies to the world. Because God is consistent, God’s teaching will be consistent, and we will not be led from one thing to another. What we call the testimonies are a way of speaking about the manner of living which grows out of a life centered on God. Commonly accepted testimonies are integrity, simplicity, peace, equality and community.

*H. The intentional and difficult balance between individual leading and corporate leading, individual concern and corporate concern, individual discernment and corporate discernment. ....*