

Living With The Questions That Embarrass Us Life Is A Series of Questions and Answers

① Philip and The Ethiopian

"How Can I Understand Unless Someone Guides Me?"

② God's Call to Moses

"What About Your People?"

"What About You?"

③ In The Life of Jesus

"Who Were Do You Say I Am?"

The Lawyer "What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life?"

④ The Dialogue of The Cross Itself

- Man's Need and God's Response

- The Angry Nixteen and The Suffering Love

⑤ Much of Life Is A Dialogue of Questions & Answers

- The Scientist Who Asks

- The Life of A Family

Too Often The Church Has Tried To Avoid The Tough Questions

① The Angry, God Questions of The Manse.

② The Quiet and Suffering and Loneliness of Modern ^{Man.}

③ The Cry of Unbelief and Agnosticism.

The Questions of Our Young People

① The ways in which they come

- The Angry Defiance and Challenging of Authority.

② The books they read.

- Why Comics or Hate or Moins Magazines.

③ The kind of music

- Jazz or Rock n' Roll.

④ Their Manners

- Their Talking or the Conformity

⑤ Often These Are Our Questions

- Who are we?

- What is the purpose of it all?

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Why the big front?

① What about the gap between belief and action,
the pitch and production?

- Belief in God but no difference in life.
- A revolutionary kingdom but pretty tame ^{stuff}.
- Followers of Jesus but living our own way.
- Young people tell us!
 - 84% are Church members.
 - 78% believe in the hereafter.
 - 2/3 say Bible is completely true
- What difference does it make.
- Perhaps they have learned from us
 - A thousand white lies or keeping up with the people in our class.

"My father says they're Christians. Then why do they
act like they do?"

② The Sham and The Institutionalism of It All

- J.D. Salinger and The Catcher in the Rye
- The celebration of the Word of ~~Golden Rule~~ ^{Califf}
- The Sham in Radio City Music Hall

Read →

- Why the big deal?

- The success complex

- The Hiring in organization

- Turned in on ourselves.

Will You Tell Us The Truth?

- Holden Caulfield's question

"Where do the ducks go when Central Park freezes up?"

The discerning students at S.F.C. who saw that.

① The Mystery of Life

- Jacob Wrestling "What is your name?"

- Jimmy in "Our Town" "Do any of them understand ^{it?}"

- We do not wrap life up in one afternoon.

② What About God?

- In an exploding space age!

- "In the beginning God..."

- "For, Thou hast been our dwelling place
in all generations."

③ Does Christ Really Redeem?

- The questions of the Series Bibles

- Is Jesus the Son of God? What difference does it make?

④ What About Me?

- Who am I and what am I here for?

- Can I control myself?

- Will anyone love me?

Teller

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Why Are You So Read?

① Young People Live in A World of Dynamic Action

→ Gerry's Experience

- Jazz at the Philharmonic
- The hydraulic window lifts on the old Cadillac.
- Hurrying to the Church for "The Church's One Foundation".

② The Christian Life Seems So True and Empty

- True and Bored
- A place of Negatives and Moralism.

③ Yet See What Christ Made Of It.

- Like a wedding feast
- Like a banquet
- Singing and Rejoicing over lost sinners.

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Have You Really Given Yourself to Anything?

① Catcher in the Rye

Phoebe's question to Holden

"You really don't like anything do you?"

Then he thinks

- People coming home from church

- See boy singing "If a body caters a body"

Then the scene comes to him

- Catching Mop and Girls running over the cliff.

② Has Anything Become Central to Us?

- Jesus said: "No man can serve two masters"

See Word of Great Voice

Treasure in a field

Single response to one invitation

- Paul said: "This one thing I do forgetting all else."

- Kierkegaard: "Unity of heart is to will one thing."

③ See friend at Westminster.

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"I come in when the goddam stage show was on. The Rockettes were kicking their heads off, the way they do when they're in line with their arms around each other's waist. The audience applauded like mad, and some guy behind me kept saying to his wife, 'You know what that is? That's precision.' He killed me. Then, after the Rockettes, a guy came out in a tuxedo and roller skates on, and started skating under a bunch of little tables and telling jokes while he did it. He was a very good skater and all, but I couldn't enjoy it much because I kept picturing him practicing to be a guy that rollerskates on the stage. It seemed so stupid. Then, after him, they had this Christmashing they have at Radio City every year. All these angels start coming out of the boxes and everywhere, guys carrying crucifixes and stuff all over the place and the whole bunch of them -- thousands of them -- singing "Come All Ye Faithful!" like mad. Big deal. It's supposed to be religious as hell, I know, and very pretty and all, but I can't see anything religious or pretty about a bunch of actors carrying crucifixes all over the stage. When they were all finished and started going out the boxes again, you could tell they could hardly wait to get a cigarett or something. I saw it with old Sally Hayes the year before, and she kept saying how beautiful it was, the costumes and all. I said old Jesus probably would've puked if He could see it -- all those fancy costumes and all. Sally said I was a sacrilegious atheist. I probably am. The thing Jesus really would've liked would be the guy that plays the kettle drums in the orchestra."

You see, many kinds are convinced we've got a big deal, a good thing but it is all turned inward on itself. Somehow they almost seem to know instinctively that the church was not meant to be big and successful, that there is something about its life which is supposed to be real when everything else becomes a sham. When we lose our integrity because we reflect the spirit and mood of our age our sharpest critics become those who hate sham. Whatever else we can say about this generation of young Americans is they hate sham. If we assume, therefore, that we can build a program for young people by changing the time of the meeting or arranging a new room, we have only added to the superficiality which young people feel is already there. The real tough question we have to ask ourselves now is "Where is the redemptive center of the church?" I am personally convinced we will not find it by doing more and more, bigger and better than we have ever done it before. The fiercest, toughest conversation that I have been