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Canopy special edition

My European Identity (2nd Part) My Kingdom Identity

The “special editions” are teachings to help you to pray for Europe with a better understanding.

Let me expand the thoughts of the last Canopy No 7. It ended with the question: What is our contribution as Christians to the development of a sound European identity? Answer: “Europe” is not somewhere, Europe is where you live. *So you are a European!*

That is true, but it is true for every European. But what is the *specific* contribution of the Christians for Europe?

The fathers of today’s Europe said: “Europe needs a soul” otherwise it will collapse. And it was clear to them that the soul could be only the Christian Faith. So the very first contribution of the Christians to Europe is their faith, the Christian Faith. Besides the political identity, we also have as nationals an ethnical identity and, as Europeans, a cultural identity. But prior to these we have a Kingdom Identity as children of God. This makes us one. And this kingdom in our midst makes Europe stable again. Let’s stand firm!

From the Ural Mountains down to Portugal you will see a church or a chapel in every village or town. The European culture has been shaped for more than thousand years in language, law, arts, education etc. through the teachings of the Bible. This is a historical fact in spite of all secularisation.

But what is the good of a historical fact, if you and I are not practicing the gospel in today’s life openly and publicly? This is the crucial, the very point of the future of Europe!
You and I – **we are** the manifestation of the Christian soul of and for Europe!

Don’t fear Secularism! Don’t fear Islam! Fear God and commit your life to Him. He cares for His children and He hears their prayers as the breath of the soul of Europe. He takes us for the whole of Europe as its representatives. Our prayer for Europe as priestly men and women in thanksgiving, repentance, supplication and blessings is our life saving contribution for Europe. This is the ministry of our Canopy-prayer. Remember: “Europe will be saved”. (Nuremberg 2015).

Three points are the characteristics of our faith compared with Islam and let us practice them openly and with humble self-confidence:

The Trinity

- We believe not in Allah, but we believe in God as our Father, in Jesus, true God and true man and in the Holy Spirit. They are 3 in One like when we call “sun” the cosmic star, or the sunshine or the warmth – all 3 as manifestations of the *same* thing. So is “God” 3 in One but distinguishable.

The Unity

- We believe in the Unity of the Church growing together more and more and becoming the one Bride of Jesus. The unity of the “Umma” of the Islam is horribly shattered by hate and destruction.

The Saviour

- We belong to a man who did not kill but who gave His life as Saviour for others. Out of love. We know through Jesus God as the God of love. For every person. Forever. And this our Saviour is with us wherever we go.

This is our threefold solid foundation as Christians we have in these our days in Europe. Why do we fear? “This is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith”, the apostle John encourages us (1. John 5,4).

Prayer

- Let us praise and adore our God, the God of Love (1. John 4,16.19).
- Let us pray for our unity in Christ and live it out in respect and love towards each other. Let us bless those with names who are belonging to Christ and the kingdom but not to our particular group (nation or denomination) (John 10,16).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit may fill us with peace, love and joy (Gal 5,22f) to testify the threefold God to the Neo-Pagans, the Moslems etc. as the truly European faith.
- May God give unity right now to the European nations again making them aware of it as a gift from God (John 17,25-26).

Ortwin Schweitzer