

“HOW DOES THE BIBLE INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE?”

Thank you John Shelby Spong!

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“Christianity is not about religion; it is about life.” Page 278

“After Darwin there appeared to be no such thing as a perfect creation on which the God who lived above the sky could look with approval and pronounce it not only good but finished, as the Genesis creation account had suggested (Gen. 1:1-2:4a). For Darwin, creation was an ongoing, never-to-be finished, evolutionary process. Human beings were thus forced to draw some radically new conclusions. Without an ‘original perfection’ in creation itself, there could not have been a fall from perfection.” Page 46

“The biblical story of the perfect and finished creation from which we human beings have fallen into ‘original sin’ is pre-Darwinian mythology and post Darwinian nonsense. We have to find a new way to tell the old story.” Page 27

"We are not fallen sinners, indelibly infected with original sin. Rather, we are incomplete people yearning to be made whole". P166

"Christianity did not come into being with a bible that contained "*the Word of GOD*". It was not born with creeds fully formed that its constituents had to believe" p273

“Jesus, whatever else he was, was a first-century person in whose life people believed that they experienced what they called ‘the divine’ coming together with what they identified as ‘the human’. The explanations of that experience are what we find in the pages of the New Testament. Those biblical explanations inevitably reflect the worldview of the first century, the time in which the experience lived. No one can escape their own frame of reference". P 24

"The Easter experience in the New Testament, contrary to what we have been taught, is not about bodies walking out of graves. It is far more profound than that. It is about GOD being seen in human life." P188

"All are ‘one in Jesus Christ’ (Gal. 3:26-29). That is what Jesus meant, and that is what the original Christ experience was, before the bible came to be called ‘the Word of GOD’, before we became scripture’s defenders and before the creeds became ‘the essence of our faith’. It was also before any form of liturgy became ‘the only way to worship’". P275

“I journey deeply into the Bible’s content, moving far beyond the literal surface, and discover there both meaning and insights to which I continue to feel a deep allegiance." P284

John Shelby Spong, **Unbelievable**. *Why Neither Ancient Creeds nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today*. HarperOne, 2018