The Side-Eyed Sweetie

I carry zero concern when I think differently than others. I love sitting with people who love listening to each other. People who share without borders.

There is nothing more life-giving than walking with those who carry no religious spirit of needing to prove how much they know—but instead simply know Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

That is my reality right now.

My Greek and Hebrew studies have flipped too many church narratives to count. They've overturned even more of my own religious tables.

I wish I could convince more of us to drop the religion. Drop the churchy narratives. Discard the "manologies" we've passed down for centuries as theology.

We cannot allow human commentaries to rule as God's truth.

What a wayward path we weave when we think we are studying God's words, yet we are studying everything and everyone *but* His words.

We need to just sit with Jesus, the living Word, and listen to His voice.

Here is what concerns me deeply:

When we get hardened in what we think Jesus wants from us, we close our ears to those who seem to live a bit "too spiritually free" on our moral scale.

We trade His spirit for skepticism. We keep people where Jesus never does—at arm's length.

Can you even imagine that? Someone being *too free* in Christ?

If the Son sets us free, are we not actually free indeed?

Any obligation to meet human standards of righteousness must come from a completely different spirit. Especially if we believe our own attempts at righteousness are nothing more than filthy rags.

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It's a contrary spirit, and one I struggled with for decades: **the side-eyed sweetie.**

It's that unconscious judgment that leaks out from behind a Christian smile when we cross paths with someone who isn't quite meeting our standard of righteous living.

Through religiously bred eyes, we look at them like a heathen, secretly stirring:

"Why are they resting in Him so freely while we're exhausting ourselves trying to keep up with the spiritual Joneses?"

It is tragic that religion once bred me to be skeptical of different perspectives, when it was my willingness to listen and take those views to the Lord that ultimately changed my life forever—all because I chose to sit for a spell and honor the very voice religion will warn us about...someone who thinks differently than us.

Yet, the most beautiful thing about those who walk in true freedom in Christ is this: **they carry no religious ego.**

They will love you regardless of your side-eyed sweetness if you let the love of God do its deep, quiet work within you.

At the end of the day, the spiritual Joneses are running a race that Jesus already finished.

The cross didn't establish a new checklist; it buried the checklist entirely.

So let the religious world stare. It reveals an open door when they question your peace.

You don't have to carry the burden of their suspicion, nor do you have to let a side-eyed sweetie steal your rest.

Instead, use your freedom in Christ to open the door wider for them.

Keep sitting at His feet. Listen to His voice. Live out a grace so beautifully unbothered that it leaves others wondering how they, too, can finally drop their "must-gos" and "must-dos" and just live freely in Christ.

Ridiculously graced.
~bly

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