

GOD IS LIGHT

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.” (I Jn 1:5 NIV)

The subject of light is both simple and profound. Our most brilliant scientists can spend a life time probing the depths of this subject without understanding everything there is to know about it. At the same time a little child recognizes the need to turn on the light to keep from stumbling.

Everyone on earth can understand the value of light. Just think how many things would be useless if it were not for light. Airplanes, cars, books, tools, and a wide variety of other things cannot be used in total darkness. Let us suppose, for example, that you are boarding an airplane for an all night flight. When the pilots sit down in the cockpit they discover that there is a mal function in the electrical system and the airplane will be without any light at all. The pilots under such circumstances would be unable to know how fast they were going, how high they were, or what direction they were traveling. To take off under such circumstances would be suicide. Or let us suppose that you are being wheeled into the operating room for surgery. Normally there are very bright lights immediately over the operating table to help the surgeon avoid making a fatal mistake. Today, however, there are no lights at all. Because there are no windows in the operating room it is filled with total darkness. The absence of light renders all of the expensive surgical instruments of no value whatsoever. No rational person would want to be operated on in total darkness. Based upon such reality it is not by accident that Christians are called “children of light” and non Christians “children of darkness.”

An article has been making the rounds over the inter net regarding a confrontation which was said to have taken place between a college professor and a student named Albert Einstein. The unbelieving professor took delight in ridiculing Christians and argued that there was obviously evil in the world and if God created everything, then He had to have also created evil.

Einstein countered by asking the professor if “cold” existed. Some students snickered and the professor answered that of course cold existed. Einstein then said: *“In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat; all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat.”*

Next Einstein asked the professor if darkness existed. Again the professor affirmed that obviously it did. Again Einstein responded: *“Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton’s prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn’t this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present.”*

Finally the young Einstein closed the loop and returned to the subject of evil. *“Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not like faith, or love that exist just as does light and heat. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God’s love present in his heart. It’s like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.”*

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” (I Jn 1:5-7)