

Prof. D. S. Cairns
"Christianity and the
Modern World"



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Dear Dr Dennis,

I have read through and greatly enjoyed Cairns' book. I cannot share his sense of the difficulty arising from the failure of his list to enumerate in his ethical system honor, patriotism, and other sociological virtues, which he declares were specialized in the Prophets. I find them all summed up in the Golden Rule (Matt 7:12), which he especially states takes in the law and the prophets, and in the condition of eternal life (Mt 10:27), which is but a condensation of the law, explained as to its second condition by the parable of the Good Samaritan. I cannot regard

such sociological virtues as ~~fastidiousness~~
and public spirit as primary and
radical. They may be enormous,
as when a loyal subject supports
with life and property a bad govern-
ment, ~~or~~ ~~the~~ man sustains by liberal
use of his means ~~corrupting~~ ~~drain~~ or
immoral art. As for honor, it is abundant
ly provided for in all clauses of the
Sermon on the Mount, e.g. honors to the
weak, to women, to those who have claims
of men, etc., etc.

The principle which underlies true
patriotism, i.e. fealty to humanity, i.e.
to the Kingdom of God, is distinctly
laid down Matt. 5, 43-48. ^{the sermon} ~~the sermon~~ ~~is~~ ~~implied~~ ~~as~~
by implication for justifiable rebellion
against intolerable tyranny (Matt. 7,
1-5).

I find, in Christ's teachings, enough
to underlie and sustain every reform,
and every civic virtue. That Christ should
have inculcated patriotism, as under-
stood in the compact nations of Christ

entirely true, would have been an ~~and~~
chronism, which, ^{neither} the Jews nor any
other of the subject nations of the Ro-
man Empire could have under-
stood otherwise than as an encour-
agement to rebellion. ~~He would~~
to urge them to patriotism toward
oppressive Rome could have been
as much a mockery as to urge the
diverse populations of the Turkish
Empire to patriotism toward the
Sultan. Obedience, patience, await-
ing God's pleasure, and a firm be-
lief in His Kingdom were all which
the circumstances of the Apostolic
age warranted. Christ's attitude, and
that of His Apostles toward polygamy
and slavery illustrated the same
principle of moral teaching. The
moral code of Christ, with its basis
universal brotherhood of man, was
and is the subversive force which
alone has been able to overcome those
evils. It is the same with bad govern-

ment. Not to turn Christianity into
an Antislavery Society, or a Society
against Plural Marriage, or bad
Government, would have been to lose
sight of its principles in their applica-
tion, to sacrifice the root for the branches.
es. ~~complete~~

No code of morality can be framed
which leaves out anything which
Jesus put in. Nor will any precept
of such a code fail to find its founda-
tion in Christ's principles.

We have had a good voyage
thus far. I am resting in preparation
for the campaign in Germany and
Spain. May the Lord defend the right!

I think often of your generous
hospitality and encouraging words.
Give my love to Sister Ann, Sam &
his family, and Alfred and his.

Yours affectionately yours,
George C. Foster.