

The Sound of One Hand Clapping

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There is a Buddhist meditation riddle, “What is the sound of one hand clapping?” I never really thought about this much, and had thought it rather silly if anything.

Then I broke my shoulder.

Everything exists in a harmony of duality, including hands and arms. The awkwardness of my existence being able to use only one arm made me emphatically aware of how dependent my entire life had been of that existing harmony. Suddenly a silly nonsense riddle was stating a very profound truth; that everything exists only in correct relationships.

Christianity has become so wrong. Christianity, as many theologians believe, is said to be summed up by the statement “God so loved the world that He gave his only Son...” (John 3:16). Somehow, somehow, somehow this has gotten mistranslated or misconstrued to be “God so loves ME so much that he gave his only begotten Son...”

Somehow an incredibly selfish theology of personal salvation has been developed which actually has become a denial of that very love that the verse was meant to state. The entire existence of a universe built on the harmony of dualistic

relationships, and ultimately the harmony of love, is denied and narrowed to the point of “God loves ME.”

I am not one for bumper stickers. I think all too often they are arrogant, sarcastic, simplistic statements of an incorrect leftist tyrannical belief system. But there was one bumper sticker I saw that made me laugh so hard I almost had to pull off the road. It said:

GOD LOVES YOU
everyone else thinks you're a jackass

Sorry, but here, as I think about how Christianity has drifted from the importance of the original nature of the universe and the harmony of relationship — that bumper sticker came to mind. I thought it was funny and actually ended up making an existential statement far beyond its original intention.