

Changes

by Bill Consiglio

My spiritual life is changing, it has become more:
Eclectic, which means my growing faith has tapped
into different thought-forms, perspectives,
and even other religious traditions.

Expansive, which means my growing faith has
broadened me to beauty and nature and
appreciation of the goodness
and kindness found in all people.

Inclusive, means that I have softened
the sharp boundaries in my thinking
about people and practices which
once I excluded and judged.

Authentic, which means I have embraced and accepted
the truth about myself,
my feelings and my life,
even if they contradict previous convictions,
which once I denied or concealed.

Transparent means I have become
much more willing, fearless, and confident
about revealing the truth to myself,
and about myself to others.

Loving means that I am allowing myself
to experience the vulnerability of
loving others, forgiving, and receiving
love more often.

Devotionally I have become much more
simple, less complicated or polemical;
more spontaneously childlike;
focusing on a faith of trust, hope and love
which I have for each Person of the Trinity.

We live our lives and pray our lives,
not nicely, not neatly, not often clearly or orderly,
but always authentically.

Our biography, with all its ups and downs,
is our spirituality. We have met God in our living.
There is space in God's heart for all things;
our confusion, indifference, betrayal, contradiction,
our many, many failures, and even our sin.

The trouble with my former religious thinking
is the way it complicated my life and my
relationship to God with so many peripherals,
some of which were quite attractive;
but leading me far from the essentials.
The richness of my former religious thinking
was also its most potentially misleading,
even deceiving seduction.

I ask, was Jesus eclectic, expansive,

inclusive, authentic, transparent,
loving and devotionally childlike?
"In this world let us be like Jesus."

1 John 4:17

"That the body of Christ may be built up
until we all reach unity in the faith
and in the knowledge of the Son of God,
and become mature, attaining to
the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:13