

Worship Sharing 5/10/22

Testimony

Douglas Gwyn "A Sustainable Life" pg 41-42

"So we hear not only integrity but simplicity, equality, and peacemaking implied in the Sermon on the Mount. According to Wilmer Cooper, "integrity" provides the most adequate one word definition of Quaker Faith and Practice. It is "the essential Quaker Testimony and undergirds all the other testimonies of Friends."

The concept of *testimony* is essential to Quaker faith and practice. George Fox emphasized that our lives must preach. Our lives communicate what we really believe, whatever our words may profess... Early and Traditional Friends did not speak of various "testimonies" but simply of testimony, a single undivided whole life."

"Friends today often speak of "the Quaker testimonies" typically enumerated as simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship (or sustainable living). Together they form a helpful mnemonic, SPICES. While our traditional Quaker commitments may be helpfully categorized in this way, it is important to remember the integral whole they form. Since testimony is the visible practice of an inwardly received truth, it has a sacramental quality for Friends. Testimony is the outward sign of an inward grace."

"So the outward practices that form our testimony not only express inward conviction, they also add further clarity to that conviction. The inward and outward continue to inform and advance one another as we "live up to the light" we have been given."

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience of testimony as a Friend?

How have you experienced Friends testimony as an integrated whole?

Does breaking down our testimony into the "SPICES" categories encourage us to see them as separate options?