

## MARCUS BORG'S FAITH JOURNEY

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What can we learn about Progressive Christianity by following Marcus Borg's Faith Journey? The question attracts me because of my Progressive Christian leanings. In addition, I most appreciated Borg's view that accepting a faith position is a process much like growing up. The growth involves receiving messages: parental, cultural and spiritual ones. The fact that Borg hasn't abandoned his religious convictions can be seen in two of his statements:

- "The Bible is our foundational document." (Not sacred in origin but sacred in its status and function.)
- "Jesus is the norm, the standard by which the rest of the Bible is to be understood." (To be used if there is a conflict between Jesus and the Bible)

A brief description of Progressive Christianity seems appropriate at this point.

Supernatural theism	Progressive Christianity
A superhuman God in Heaven	An all encompassing spirit on earth
Divine intervention	Divine Intention or interaction
Requirements and Rewards	Love, Justice, Grace

I have organized the rest of this closing around two questions:

- 1, What are the key elements in Borg's Faith Journey? Biblically? Personally?
2. What does it mean to be a Christian in a time of a deeply divided American Christianity?

### 1. The Key Elements:

-Biblically:

#### AN OVERVIEW OF EVOLVING CHRISTIANITY

FIRST 1000 YEARS	1600's Middle Ages	TODAY
ORIGINAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY	SUPERNATURAL THEOLOGY	(SUPERNATURAL THEOLOGY (GOD IN HEAVEN) AND PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY (GOD IS EVERYWHERE))
GOD (O.T.)	DIFFERENT BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDINGS	AGNOSTICS (Is there a God?) ATHEISTS (No God)
JESUS (Jewish Proppher)	OPPOSITION TO SCIENCES (Galileo, Darwin, ....)	
THE BIBLE (OT AND NT)		

- HISTORICALLY (Two ancient civilizations - Jewish and early Christian)
- METAPHORICALLY (meaning of the stories count, not the factual analysis)

- SACRAMENTALLY (Bible is the sacrament or vessel for the human spirit)

The Key Elements:

- Personally:

Supernatural theism to Progressive Christianity

Childhood and Early Adulthood Influences to College Experiences: Accepting other Christian views and other faiths.

Vietnam War - no excuse of violence

2. What does it mean to be a Christian in a time of a deeply divided American Christianity?

Marcus Borg suggests two clear Christian positions on this question.

(1) Christians should take a more active role on major social issues:

- Christian Right: has become more politically actively ignoring social issues and favouring a more prewar and looser gun control rules position.
- Majority of Christians: need to stress peace, civil rights and economic justice and need to take a stronger political position

(2) Christians need to modify the ideological bases of American Hubris (individualism and Exceptionalism)

- Individualism: stressing the selfmate man and ignoring the poor.
- Exceptionalism: accepting huge economic difference between the rich and the poor.

BORG'S SOLUTION = "COMMON GOOD"

- UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
- AFFORDABLE EDUCATION
- COMPASSIONATE IMMIGRATION POLICY