

## FUNDAMENTALISTS AND LIBERALS

I have found a way of telling at a glance whether a Christian comes from the fundamentalist or the liberal wing of the church.

Fundamentalists as we all know are those who take every word of the Bible literally and insist upon unswerving obedience to its every command.

Liberals are those who prefer to think more deeply about the meaning of the text and to decide for themselves how to interpret it, and whether or not it has any application, metaphorical or otherwise, for today.

As ever in theology, the differences focus most clearly at the Cross. So Jesus taught,

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23),

and

"Anyone who does not pick up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27).

We can now therefore distinguish the two groups at a glance. The fundamentalists are those whom you can see wearing a cross outwardly on their persons in literal obedience to these commands. The liberals are those who interpret them metaphorically and inwardly, and so see no need to wear one.

The truth of this may be verified without further thought. Did you ever see a Church of England bishop NOT wearing a cross? So now we have the proof of what we have all long suspected. The Anglican episcopacy is fundamentalist to a man.

Footnote:

From orthodox believers of both fundamentalist and liberal camps are to be distinguished the members of a modern and fast growing cult, often encountered on our roads, who appear to believe that Jesus died upon a fish.

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B/W 6.8.3, am.