

ARE YOU ALWAYS RIGHT?

Recently, a new couple started attending our Quaker Meeting, and week by week they sat in different places round the Meeting House. When asked why, they said “we wanted to see the Meeting from different perspectives”. A trivial story, but

Do we really need to look at things from different perspectives - our relationships, job, lifestyle, our outlook on society or politics? Surely we know what is good and right. Or do we? Perhaps we should look at them from a wider perspective. How does your partner see your lives together? Ask yourself how your employer sees the job you do. How do others see your lifestyle? What impact do our political views have on those with differing affluence or security? Are your religious beliefs intolerant of others?

Being comfortable with where we are does not mean that is the right, or the only, way possible. Most issues, most things that happen, do not resolve into one outcome that is right with everything else wrong. They look different from different perspectives. The tolerance and understanding that is important whatever your religious faith or your lifestyle comes from seeing whatever is of concern from other perspectives. That is essential to solving problems, resolving disagreements and living happily together. That tolerance and understanding is the only way we can make progress in the world. Peace, progress and happiness are what we all seek.

“Listen patiently and seek the truth which other people’s opinions may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken” (Quoted from Quaker Advices and Queries). Take a look at your life from a different perspective.