

TURNING THE CORNER... With or Without Brian McLaren

Why Quit?

- Anti-semitism, Christian violence, Colonialism, Institutionalism, \$\$\$, White Patriarchy, Toxic Theology, Minimal Transformation, Anti-intellectualism, Demographics.
- Furthermore: I just wish... because it's too late; I give up; I'm alone; I'm exhausted.

Why Stay?

- I feel like people are quitting the marathon only... a few hundred yards from the finish line.
- If I throw away the good, I have added to the evil (84).
- How can I withdraw my consent and support for the ugliness without also discouraging or destroying the emerging beauty that people like *insert allies* are bringing to the world?

I have to stay! How can I abandon these good people? I can't say, "OK. You win."

But How?

1. winter and spring, extinction and evolution, labour and birth; death leads to life;
Sing, Dance, Read, Draw, Paint, Walk, Eat....
 2. Look for heroes. *Imitatio Christi*;
 3. I need not commit to saving institutions, theologies, liturgies, and traditions that are unsalvageable. Some of these must die. Q? How do we live in dying communities?
 4. Be honest. I'm tired. I'm ticked. BUT someone has to do it.
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Say NO

- Say no to a defiant exit. Take this church and shove it vs. I'm not going quietly.
- Refuse compliance.

But excommunication/job loss Stay with grace, integrity, humility, love.

To whom can we Go?

- Perfection doesn't exist!
- If we leave Christianity, Christianity doesn't leave us.
 - o What are the greatest blessings offered through our tradition even as we face its shortcomings. Don't forget the benefits. Who/Where are we without the Gospel?
 - o Who are your fellow travelers? Who needs you? Who do you rely on?

Homework: