

Concord Methodist Church

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MINISTER
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MRS. W. ARTHUR MILLER
SECRETARY

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Dear Dr. Sprunger,

I have read very carefully your 23-page summary (I wonder how conceivably this could be reduced to 200 words), which makes the basic position of Urantia abundantly clear. With a pair of scissors it could be divided into footnotes which would sustain nearly every point in my original analysis. The naked facts stand out in stark clarity. They proclaim that 2100 pages are needed to soften and dilute the Big Lie which, of course, must be repeated variously ad nauseam until the reader, concluding the whole, is stunned into submission.

There is no common ground for discussion between us. Either you are wholly uninformed about the positions of current Biblical scholarship or you are so intrigued with your new love as to lose all objectivity or perversely you pretend to accept the Biblical faith at the same time you undermine it at every critical point. Such ignorance or blindness or dishonesty precludes the possibility of any minimal meeting ground and, therefore, of any creative interchange between us. Urantia is right when it observes that the Christian Church is only a pale image of what it ought to be. Surely the final mark of its present degeneracy is the fact that you believe what you do and remain within its fold as though you belonged. It is probably too much to hope that your illicit relations with this bastard faith have not utterly distorted your intellectual and spiritual integrity. If it had not, you would instantly resign from your church, surrender your ministerial credentials, and announce to the world the ersatz religion which up to this time you insist is at home with Biblical faith. I should be very uneasy myself if I were the leader of the miserable little band of men pretending to be ministers who have given their minds and souls to this intriguing goddess. As a minister of the Word I am sure you have a responsibility to maintain your integrity by surrendering either one or the other of your religions. But finally ours is not a personal disputation - it is, rather, the inescapable conflict between the Sovereign God of the Bible and pretenders to his throne, however subtly they may endeavor to insinuate themselves.

I really do not begrudge the time I have given to our controversy - I do regret, however, that my unrestricted criticism will be appropriated into your self-contained system and render you the satisfaction of counting yourself one of the martyrs in the nobling search for truth. I would remind you that the One whom we are both to serve is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We have no commission to seek another.

Sincerely yours,

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Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger
Culver, Indiana

Robert E. Chiles