

Dead certain

Have you ever seen a dead person? You haven't? Then you belong - statistically speaking - to the about 50 % of the population which never had direct contact with a dead person.

That's not surprising. In today's society, there seems to exist a conspiracy of silence. We try to hush death up. Dying has been relocated from the houses and only takes place in clinics.

Repressing of death is noticeable even in the linguistic usage: The word "dying" becomes "passing away". In some obituaries you read: He or she has left us. We pretend that death was a decision of the one who died. But besides those gentle and veiling paraphrases there are also very drastic expressions. We speak of kicking the bucket.

With irony and bad humor we try to outdo the horror of death in order to refrain from it. The gentle formulations as well as the brutal ones have the same background: We try to keep the reality of death at arm's length.

But nevertheless, one thing applies: We human beings can expect nothing else as surely as our own death. Plenty of future things are uncertain. But death is certain. Dead certain. How do you deal with this fact? For me, the following applies: Only that which lasts in death is good for life, too!

As a Christian, biblical statements and perceptions are important to me. Interestingly, the biological death and the biblical death are not identical. Biologically, life is where death is not yet, and death is where life is not any more. Both terms explain each other mutually.

Biblically, life and death are not defined mutually but in relation to a third person: to God and His son Jesus Christ, respectively. Where there is God, a relationship with God, contact with God, conversation with God, faith in God - there is life. And this life, even biological death cannot destroy.

2000 years ago, at that time something happened which changed the world. God brought the crucified Jesus Christ back from death after three days. That wasn't a Stephen King - movie. That was no reanimation. That is an utter world change. Death is defeated. God has defeated death. Therefore, my considerations do not end in a death with a bad odour over it or in cheap explanations about the cycle of nature. I trust in life. I entrust my life to God.

And I count on the authoritative declaration of Him who says: "**Because I live, you also will live.**" (John 14: 19). How about you?

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