

How do we choose faith?

Do people choose things if they have never been given a choice?
How would they know what to choose?

And yet for many years now we have pretended that issues of faith can be left for our children to choose for themselves, and as a result many people, now adults, have made no choice for or against faith. We have pretended that our children will choose a religious faith for themselves and that without attempting to influence their decision we must leave them to make that choice alone.

As a result many people have made no choice because the issues of faith have never been placed before them. And NO information equals NO choice.

But the issues of faith are important. Religious belief confronts us with questions about meaning and purpose.

- § Why are we here?
- § What can we hope for?
- § How should we live?
- § Why is there something and not nothing?
- § Are we here by pure chance or is there a purpose which we can discover to help us to live our lives?
- § How should we live our lives in relation to other people?

The Christian Faith proclaims that there is a meaning to our existence; that we are made in the image of God, with the capacity to love. Exploring faith means feeding that image of God within ourselves by constructing a life of prayer and spirituality. It also means respecting that image of God in the other person, every other person. By respecting God's image in other people we construct our morality and shape the way we live our lives.

We make all sorts of choices for our children, (what they eat, what they wear) and the choice about faith and spirituality is more important than many other choices.

Do nothing, and you will be making the choice for your child, by giving them no choice. Help them explore faith, by walking with them, and they will begin a journey of discovery which will last a lifetime.

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