

You can read these beautiful writings, but you read about their customs and you find they are very similar to these customs which Pearl Buck describes in connection with the life of her parents in China in a pagan background.

It is as Christianity has come in that respect for the individual and desire for the welfare for others than one's self and those related to one's self has come in. But what a shame it is that in our day so often the idea of courtesy and of kindness and of what would seem to be Christian love is connected with a false cult instead of with the true Christian.

When I was in college I went out one summer to sell books and it was in a very hot region in the oil fields of California. It was disagreeable work and I'm afraid I did not stick at it as long as I might. But I remember vividly some of my experiences and one thing that used to impress me was as I would be going down the street calling at house after house I'd hear, That fifth house down there has a Christian science lady living there and I really looked forward to getting there. I knew that the woman would receive me, open the door with a smile on her face, and she would ask me if I'd like to have a drink of water. She would try to show a very friendly attitude.

She probably wouldn't buy the book but she would take an attitude toward me that would make me feel refreshed, and rested and feel that she felt friendly toward me. Now I think that that is in this false cult pretty much of a veneer. I think it's a forced smile often. But it's a shame that true Christians don't have the real smile and the real cordiality more often than they do.

I remember one place that I called. The woman came to the door and I showed her the book. She had an awful scowl on her face! She acted as if it was a terrible nuisance, yet she just could not tell me to leave, so she listened till I finished telling about the book. When I finished she was rather docile and said she wasn't interested in it and as I looked at her, I thought these tracts I have in my pocket, this one on the loveliness of Jesus is certainly a nice tract to give this woman. I pulled out the tract on the Lovliness of Jesus and I handed it to her and said I would leave this with her anyway and she looked at it. Her whole face changed.

She smiled all over and she said, Why, are you a Christian? young man? I said, Yes I am. And she said, Yes I believe in the Lord. We went on and talked about different things of the Lord and had sweet Christian fellowship. Then after we had spoken for a few minutes she said, Now let me see that book again. I said, No indeed, I don't show you that book again! I said, It's a good book and I'm anxious to sell it in order to make some commission on it, but I said I'm not selling it to anybody because I'm a Christian young man. I said, That's not a reason to buy it. I did not show it to her again at all. I probably could have made a sale. It just proves I'm a poor salesman naturally.