

Think about it! (2)

"My way" – "I did it my way." Frank Sinatra's theme-song no doubt sums up not only his brilliant career as popular singer and actor, but also his life. And it's the philosophy of more and more people: to live their lives their way. What it means in practice is that each individual decides what they're going to believe, what they're going to do (and when and how they're going to do it), and how they're going to live.

At first sight, there doesn't seem to be much that's objectionable in such a way of thinking – what's wrong with wanting to feel free and independent? Why should we have to submit to other people's rules? Live and let live!

I suppose that the "my way" philosophy is okay up to a point, as long as "my way" doesn't clash head-on with other people's "way", and as long as my freedom doesn't limit theirs. Obviously, if "my way" is to play my music at full volume at two in the morning, it is just possible that a small problem may arise with my next-door neighbour's "way"!

But what happens when we go from there to the transcendent, to God himself? Now it's no longer a matter between two equals, is it? Can I make God fit into "my way", and, if I do, will such a "God" exist? And if I decide to ignore God's definitions of right and wrong and I make up my own 'boundaries', will he smile with paternal tolerance on my rebelliousness and perversity? Can I decide whether or not there is another life, what such a life consists of and how to get eternal happiness? Can the creature impose his criteria on the Creator, know him "his way", get to him "his way" and be saved "his way"?!

No! The one we call "God" has spoken! He has told us who he is, what he is like, how he sees us and how we can be saved! Yes, we can choose to do it "our way". The problem is that "our way" means being lost, whereas God's way means salvation!

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord..." (Isaiah 55:7).

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