

HOW LONG WILL WE TOLERATE IT?

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The church of Christ has always been troubled by those whose doctrine and conduct leaves something to be desired. The New Testament describes such people in the first century church. They say their religion is Christianity, but the only place a perfect description of Christianity can be found is in the New Testament, and they reject what it teaches. It seems their primary goal is to explain away or pervert or deny every doctrine and the moral standard of the New Testament.

The only reliable pattern for what one believes and the standard by which he is to live is in the Scriptures, but they reject them. Still, they must use some pattern. They may call it by another name (paradigm, model), but it is still a pattern. Isn't it odd. Every liberal ridicules the idea that God gave a pattern for every aspect of Christianity, yet every liberal and the church he attends follow a very predictable pattern which has been dictated by men. In worship, it is often patterned after the antics of the Pentecostal churches.

They remind me of the hippies of the 60s. They rejected the standards of the time, claiming there was no standard. At the same time, in order to be accepted into their subculture, one had to conform to the dress and behavioral pattern of the hippies. He had to be filthy and unshaven with long scraggly hair and the most outrageous, disheveled clothes he could find at the Salvation Army. He was required to speak and act according to the hippie pattern. Hippies were just as strict as any conservative, but in a different way. Liberals are the same.

It is common for them to reject the virgin birth of Christ. Most liberals reject the miracles of the Bible, and the virgin birth of Jesus was a miracle. This was obviously the reason Andre Resner, a [former] professor of Bible at ACU, wrote his filthy attack on Jesus and His mother in a liberal journal, *Wineskins*, in November 1993. He was trying to destroy the faith of gullible brethren in the virgin birth.

Liberals reject any teaching of Christ and His apostles with which they do not agree. Jesus shows such people are cut off from God: "*He that heareth you [the apostles] heareth me; and he that rejecteth you rejecteth me; and he that rejecteth me rejecteth him that sent me*" (Luke 10:16). Again, Jesus taught: "*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day*" (John 12:48).

Jesus declared: "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven*" (Mat. 7:21). Is there any way this can be harmonized with the liberal claim that man can do nothing in reference to his salvation—that he is saved by grace only and by faith only. Who is right—Jesus or the liberals?

Jesus also said:

If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my words: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me (John 14:23-24).

You be the judge: was Jesus lying, or mistaken, or do all those (including liberals) who refuse to obey Christ really love him? We may never merit salvation by our obedience, but we can never please God and remain in His favor unless we do obey Him.

They claim they are members of the Lord's church (I suppose). Many of them are removing the name of Christ from the front of their buildings. I wish all of them would, for they are a shame and disgrace to the Lord's body. It seems the only references they make to the church of Christ are vicious, bitter, malevolent criticism. No true lover of the church speaks in such a derogatory way about that body for whom Christ died.

There are things to criticize about the church. After all, the church is people, and no person is perfect. They not only criticize the imperfections of brethren; they belittle the divine pattern of the church. The tone of such criticism could arise only from deep hatred. Similar to most religious sects, they embrace the false doctrine of "unity-in-diversity," they deny there is but one body, and they refuse to follow the pattern Christ and His apostles gave for entrance into that body.

The organization of the church which is described in the New Testament, including the authority and God-given work of elders, is ridiculed and rejected. The work the Lord gave the church to do is neglected. They have replaced it with a social gospel and turned the church into a social club.

The only acceptable way God can be worshipped, as is revealed in the New Testament, is laughed to scorn. Ungodly men have substituted cheap, vaudeville-type entertainment in its place. In keeping with the spiritual nature of worship in the body of Christ (John 4:23-24), God ordered that music in worship emanate from within the heart (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). These infidels have mingled, and often replaced, that divine desire with unholy noise blaring from lifeless mechanical instruments. What a travesty!

Like any sectarian, they find a way to explain away every passage which contradicts or condemns what they do. The work of the Holy Spirit is ignored, and the fanciful exaggerations of misguided sectarians are embraced. Space limits the list, but the divine pattern for every aspect of Christianity is replaced by the "theology" of men. Concern the following passages:

And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ... But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up (Mat. 15:6-9,13).

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed (Gal. 1:6-9).

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 9-11).

I challenge you: name one—just one—area or doctrine of pristine Christianity these liberal infidels have not attacked and tried to replace with Calvinistic voodoo and the most radical forms of human theology. The sooner these schismatics are disfellowshipped, the better it will be for the people of God.

It is amazing that brethren are so ignorant of God's Word, so unbelieving, and so gullible that they are taken in by this trash. They not only will not lift a finger to oppose it,

they defend the heretics as if they came from God instead of Satan. It is heart-breaking, but Second Thessalonians 2:9-12 is once more verified before our very eyes, and the victims are utterly unconcerned about it.

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.~

Deceased