

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Al Brown

Worship is a bore. They complain that it is not entertaining, and they don't get anything out of it. God never intended it to entertain men. He so designed it that people get something out of it only as they put something in it (worship in spirit). It should be praise and adoration directed toward God and teaching and edification for Christians. We mortals should be concerned about pleasing God rather than pleasing others. God is pleased only when we worship Him according to the divine pattern and from the heart (John 4:23-24).

They despise quoting book, chapter, and verse (because they believe the Bible is not verbally inspired or capable of guiding men completely in every good work—2 Timothy 3:16f). They insist that if we do not change, we will not attract the world, especially the baby boomers, and the church will die. Will it (Mat. 16:18)? They are nauseated from hearing about authority and the old hermeneutic of direct statement, example, and implication. All the New Testament beyond the gospel of John is not binding on anyone. The truth is, they do not accept anything before the Book of Acts either.

They tell us there is no Bible plan of salvation. Men cannot do anything, or in any way contribute one whit to their salvation—it is by grace only and by faith only. Baptism is unnecessary, but if people are baptized, they are not required to know why they are doing it.

They say there is no inspired pattern for the organization, worship, or work of the church. Some say whatever is not expressly prohibited in the New Testament is allowed, but, in fact, they do not think *anything* taught in the Bible is required or *anything* they want to do is forbidden. They can take it or leave it. Putting women in leadership roles and taking communion at any time of the week is acceptable. Using mechanical, instrumental music, choirs, solos, quartets, drama, or dancing in worship—or anything which enters their heads—is all right.

The New Testament is not a God-given moral standard by which all men are to live. People can divorce for any cause and marry again. Dancing and public nudity are acceptable. Nothing is right or wrong all the time. Situation ethics is the rule of the day. The Bible's hostility to evolution and secular humanism is not sophisticated; it is ignorant and embarrassing to these infidels.

The day of miracles is still very much alive. The Holy Spirit guides men miraculously and often in a way contradictory to the scriptures. Feelings are a reliable guide to whether one is pleasing to God. What the scriptures teach is really of no consequence. All truth is relative; therefore, no one knows anything for sure. All "truth" is subjective. The situation determines whether an act or word is right or wrong.

It is obvious they are unhappy and uncomfortable. The reason: they are affiliated with the wrong church. It is the right church, and the only one to which the Lord adds the saved (Acts 2:47), but it is not the body with whom they share a common faith. Indeed, judging other brethren by themselves, they insist that men cannot all speak the same things in

blatant contradiction to 1 Corinthians 1:10. Seeing their hostility to, and disbelief in, almost every doctrine taught in God's holy word, they would be much more at home with the Baptists, Presbyterians, or Pentecostals. Some would fit in rather well with the Unitarians, but they are not followers of Christ!

Not only are they sectarian to the core, their rejection of the inspiration of the scriptures precludes the possibility of restoring them. Yes, they have an education that far surpasses what most of us have, as they haughtily remind us. There is, however, one thing about which we may be certain: it is not In the word of God; it is in the theology of men. Theology is not a study of God and His word as the term implies. It is a study of the opinions of sectarian men about religious matters. It is clear they do not believe the scriptures are authoritative.

Of course, their sympathy for, and allegiance to, the doctrines of men is not surprising. Having been taught by sectarians (in their seminaries or by men in "Christian" colleges who have embraced sectarian doctrine), their faith in God's verbally inspired, all-sufficient word has been ship-wrecked. True sectarians, they believe and are determined to teach for doctrine the precepts of men (Mat. 15:9). Can you name *one* doctrine or practice in the church these infidels have not challenged and/or denied?

Let's face it, heretics have stolen "our" schools. People on the boards of trustees and administrations are not sound in the faith. The charters of these schools have been grossly violated. Do any think they will repent and return to the old paths just because a few brethren complain? Will liberal "preachers" and "elders" return to the faith? Not likely.

What can we do? Unless we are ready to take these trustees to court, they will retain control. Concerning infidels in the Lord's church, God's will is clear. "**Mark them** that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and **turn away from them**" (Rom. 16:17). "I wrote unto you **not to keep company**, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **with such a one no, not to eat**" (1 Cor. 5:11). "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which they received of us. ... If any man obeyeth not our word by this epistle, **note that man, that ye have no company with him ...**" (2 The. 3:6,14). "**Reject a divisive man** after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned" (Tit. 3:10-11; NKJ).

These people are misfits in God's kingdom. The sooner they are cast out, the sooner they will stop ravishing the body of Christ. How long will we tolerate their disgusting infidelity? How long will we refuse to obey God?~