

SUFFERING ERROR IN SILENCE!

Bill Jackson

The Lord never intended that his people be silent! Oh yes, when it comes to speaking profanely, or rashly, or otherwise sinfully, we are told to “place our hands upon our mouths.” But beyond sinful speaking, the people of God are sent into this world that they might speak up—speak up for God, speak up for truth, speak up for the gospel, speak up for the kingdom. Regrettably, one of the sad things of our day is that in many places error is taught, and those who know better do not speak up. They suffer in silence.

One thing is sure. The hurt may be there when error is taught, but when we grow silent and let it pass, week in-and-week out, in time the error will still be there but our hurt will not be so great. The conscience, earlier stirred, is now becoming seared (1 Tim. 4:2). Given a little more time, and there will be no pain at all. Then, given more time, and we will fail to see it as error any longer. May we remember the lesson of the church at Thyatira. An evil influence, identified only as a type of Jezebel of old, but it encouraged Christians to commit fornication and to have fellowship with idolatry (Rev. 2:20). The charge is that the congregation **SUFFERED IT**—tolerated it—let it happen, and apparently without protest.

When error is taught, God's people need to speak up. When elders see it and know of it, they need to speak up—indeed, they have a charge from God concerning the souls of the flock that necessitates their speaking up. Parents, when they hear error, need to speak up, not only because they have an interest in their own souls, but also because of their interest in their children's souls. Members should speak up. And, more preachers should be speaking up--and they need to do it today!

One of the amazing things of our time is the silence of some of our more prominent men concerning some of the issues of the day now rendering hurt to the church. They speak, and they write, but they avoid these issues. Why? They are tigers when it comes to dealing with “the heathen witch-doctors in Africa” but silent on the problems of marriage, divorce, and remarriage, etc. Why? It is time for all of God's children to once again be known for holding to, and speaking up in behalf of truth. And when there is error, to speak out against it—everywhere, in all circumstances, and in every form.~

Deceased