

TEACH NO OTHER DOCTRINE

Something every Christian should understand.



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1 Timothy 1: 3



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The principle of *biblical separation* can be found throughout the entirety of Scripture. What is biblical separation? Simply stated, the faithful believer in Messiah Jesus is to *separate* from that which God considers to be evil, i.e., false teaching, false teachers, immorality, etc. The following is just one of many Scriptures that gives clear instruction on this for Christians:

“As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.” (1 Timothy 1:3-4, KJV).

Found in the very beginning of Paul’s *first* pastoral epistle to Timothy, Paul reminds Timothy of a *previous* command that he gave him, that Timothy should command some that “they teach no other doctrine.” Paul also reminded Timothy that Christians should not “give heed to” any type of teaching that could lead to questioning and confusion, rather than godly edification.

It is believed by many that First Timothy was written after Paul’s first imprisonment, and that second Timothy was penned while Paul was *again* in prison, just before he was killed by Rome’s Christian persecuting Emperor, Nero. Regarding the “fables and endless genealogies” that Paul was referring to, these are *generally* thought to be rabbinical traditions that ran contrary to Scripture. The church at Ephesus that Timothy was pastoring was not only centered in a Gentile (Greek) city rife with paganism (Acts 19:11-40), it was also a place where non-Christian Jews opposed Paul (Acts 19:8-10). Many of the Gentile converts to Christ in Ephesus had come out of backgrounds steeped in evolutionary philosophy, occult magic arts, and the worship of the pagan nature goddess Diana, otherwise known as “Artemis of the Ephesians” (Acts 19:23-41). Much like the Mormon church today that is steeped in a never ending quest for “genealogies” (so they can baptize the dead by “proxy”), Greek

pagan culture was infused with its own brand of “endless genealogies.” Whether it was Jewish legalism or the pagan genealogical evolutionism that was corrupting the young Christians in Ephesus, Paul’s command was to stay away from spiritual error - to not give heed to it and to reject it. Paul, like God, *expected* the believing Church in Ephesus to “teach no other doctrine” other than what Paul as God’s representative had already instructed them.

The *biblical* standard is to teach God’s truth and reject error and false teaching, the two go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately, Neo-Evangelicalism and apostate Western Christendom has for decades now been giving heed to spiritual error in every form. In doing so “a new kind of Christianity” has been manufactured. It appears that the very starting point of biblical pastoral leadership - *separation from spiritual error* - has been cast to the wayside. Apostate 21st century Christianity, with its technology, endless supplies of print and digital media, its distribution outlets, television programs, ecumenical mass evangelism campaigns and so much more, is entirely ignorant of the principle of separating from false teachers *within* the Church. Paul also instructed the Church in Galatia, Rome, etc., on this:

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Romans 16:17-18, KJV).

One simply has to wonder, “Why do so many church leaders not understand or *implement* Bible verses like this?” I personally believe the main reason is due to biblical ignorance, passive indifference and the carnal desire to remain “popular,” instead of obedient to Jesus. Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). Paul warned the Church at Ephesus for three years, “day and night,” and “*with tears.*”

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:28-31).

One of the direct consequences *today* of not separating from pagan New Age error is the insidious leavening of the Church by dangerous teachings, including but not limited to New Age/occult evolutionary pantheism, panentheism and “theistic evolution.” Yes many Christian leaders separate from various world religions and well-known New Age, apocalyptic and pseudo-Christian cults, but a vast number of them have undiscerningly embraced Hindu, Buddhist, Yoga, and other Eastern mysticism based methods of contemplative “centering” prayer. New Age practices cloaked in biblical terminology have flooded the Church by way of the mystical “New Age Christian” teachings syncretized by Thomas Merton, Basil Pennington, William Menninger, Thomas Keating and others. These men gleaned from the Hindu and Buddhist occult prayer techniques from the East that are *identical to the methodology* used by many “Christian Mystics.” (See also, Raja Yoga, Transcendental Meditation (TM), breath prayers, Theosophical/occult concentration, meditation, and contemplation, creative visualization, etc.) Now hailed as great “spiritual directors,” these men are looked to as spiritual “guides” for the Church. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Incredibly, Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, Henri Nouwen, Brennan Manning, Philip St. Romain, Tony Campolo, Rick Warren, Brian McLaren, Richard Rohr, Eugene Peterson, Robert Schuller, Leonard Sweet, Ruth Haley Barton, Sue Monk Kidd, Beth Moore and a whole host of others have helped spread the dangerous *method* of contemplative “centering” prayer across the world.

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In similar manner to how the early church was being polluted and deceived by false teachers through their cunning craftiness, most Christian colleges, bookstores and *even churches* are no longer safe places to visit if one is seeking sound biblical instruction. Christian maturity *does not* begin with "chewing the (spiritual) meat and spitting out the bones" like so many pastors quip. It begins with sound doctrine taught straight from the Bible, with consistent refutations of false teachings, and with public reproof of false teachers.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:14-16, KJV).

Talking about "love," "prayer" and "intimacy with God" means nothing unless these things are defined biblically and in context of *how God defines them*. If not, one may very well end up like the Christians in Paul's day who were confused and deceived, and like so many in our own day that are influenced by false teachers, off-base pastors and fad-driven, pop-culture Christian literature. Those that truly love the Lord will "speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1, NASB), and remember to "teach no other doctrine." (1 Timothy 1:3).

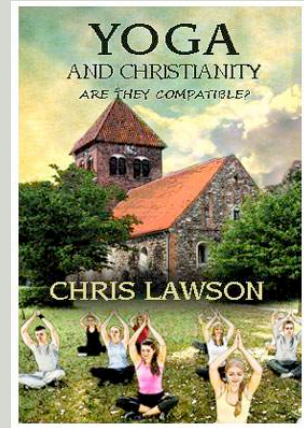
"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Timothy 4:16, KJV).

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;" (1 Timothy 6:3, KJV).

"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." (2 John 1:9).

Dear Friends,

As previously mentioned in last months update, our newly published booklet is now available through Lighthouse Trails Publishing at www.lighthouse Trails.com.



NEW PRINT BOOKLET TRACT:

Yoga and Christianity Are They Compatible?

By: Chris Lawson
\$1.95 (LT Price)

Quantity discounts are available

18 pages | 5 1/2" x 8 1/2"
Printed, bound on high quality paper

We have also now reconvened our two study groups after a small summer break the past couple weeks. We are continuing through the book of Revelation (San Luis Obispo study) and also through our in-depth look at the *Letters to the Seven Churches*, Revelation 2-3 (Cambria study).

Prayer Requests:

- Relief from back/foot pain issues
- Restful sleep
- Complete occupational training (wife)
- Audio/DVD production
- Concentration in writing/editing
- New fitness/rehab program

Financial/Support Needs:

- More regular monthly donors
- Dental work (for family)
- More economical used truck or SUV
- Travel expenses (DVD project)
- Web hosting/graphic design

Thank you for your prayers and considering our personal and ministry support needs.

- Chris Lawson

e-Prayer Updates can be accessed online at www.LawsonChristopher.Org

Online updates are "PDF" files that include a full color cover page.