

CONTINUING STEADFASTLY

Finding fellowship that is untainted by twenty-first century ecumenical apostasy



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- Acts 2:42



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Dear Friends,

As time marches on we continue to see, hear about, and personally talk to many people who struggle to find Christian fellowship; that is, Christian fellowship *that remains true* to the biblical Gospel and the biblical mandate of *separating* from false teachers and false doctrine. It can truly be said that for many, finding fellowship untainted by twenty-first century ecumenical apostasy is harder than ever to come by these days.

PEOPLE LEAVING CHURCHES

People all over the place *are* leaving churches. Why? They are sick and tired of numerous trends within popular Christianity that are polluting the Church, i.e. Carnal Rock-and-roll worship services, pastoral ecumenical relations, sensory driven mystical practices, interfaith apostasy, Christian yoga, visualization, bridal mysticism, *lectio divina*, etc. These are just some of the things that are characteristic of many Christian churches these days. The root of the problem however stems from compromised church leaders, who instead of being *the first and last line of defense against satanic opposition* to the Gospel, have neglected the biblical mandate of *opposing* evil teachings, *publicly refuting* heretics and *separating* from false teachers.

BIBLICAL SEPARATION

Many church leaders are completely ignorant that Scripture, from beginning to end, systematically teaches *and illustrates* biblical separation from evil teachings and practices. Others, either for fear of ostracism or outright rejecting God's

commands, neglect biblical responsibilities that are meant to serve as safeguards for protecting the purity of doctrine and fellowship in God's Church. Romans chapter 16:17-20 provides us with a very clear example of what Christian leaders are to do in the face of evil. Amidst Paul's final greetings to numerous Christians at Rome, writing by way of the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, Paul exhorts: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark [keep a close watch on them] those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid [turn away] them. For such as they serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:17-18).

SEVERE CONSEQUENCES

Pastors and church leaders should never neglect the *God given* principle of biblical separation. To do so only results in compromised theology and practice. It is *false* doctrine that divides believers and destroys fellowship. Church leaders today who fawn after what is "popular" so they can draw large crowds are dangerous pastors. At the cost of truth they allow the latest fads and the latest false teachings into the Church. The resultant effect is a deluding influence over the flock of God. Deceptive teachings and antichrist philosophies wrapped in Christian terminology end up being peddled as "good teaching." God never honors this, but *Satan does!* What is being promoted in vast array

through many churches and ministries today is pure spiritual garbage. Oftentimes, when leaders are confronted with the facts about the false teaching and ecumenism they are involved in they just quip, "We need to chew the meat and spit out the bones."

CHEW THE MEAT AND SPIT OUT THE BONES?



Have you ever heard this from a pastor? "Just chew the meat and spit out the bones!" If so, consider this, what kind of parent (or pastor) would ever feed their young children fish that is heavily laden with tiny hidden fish bones, and then leave it up to the ignorant child to filter out the bones by themselves, not

knowing how to properly eat fish? Also, where in the Bible does God ever provide His people with "spiritual meat" filled with dangerous "bones?" If you are a newcomer to reading the Bible, you should know that God *hates an admixture* of the false with the true! God wants His people to discern between that which is *good* versus that which is *evil*. "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). God gives spiritual meat to His Church, not *meat and bones*!"

REFUSING TO EXPOSE ERROR?

Satan's goal is to add *to*, subtract *from*, and *twist* God's Word. His goal is the destruction of the Gospel message. His craftiest method is using counterfeit leaders in the Church, many of whom *profess* to be bring new revelation, angelic messages and the like. God warns against such things! (2 Cor. 11:1-4, 13-15; Gal. 1:9-11). As long as



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pastors refuse to publicly warn about false teachers and current deceptions *in the church*, false converts will be produced and apostasy will continue to grow. Furthermore, as long as pastors refuse to *publicly separate from church leaders who willingly work together with* those who are ecumenical compromisers, the Church will wallow in confusion. Ecumenism is one of Satan's greatest deluding influences. Marching arm-in-arm in the name of "Jesus" with people who *profess* to be Christians, yet who *refuse* to expose and rebuke ecumenical error is not only unbiblical, it is *delusional*.



THE BIBLICAL STANDARD

The biblical standard for pastoral leadership begins and ends with sound doctrine. The Apostle Paul *reminded* his young protégé Timothy, "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 Tim. 1:3-4). No other doctrine than biblical revelation as is found in Scripture, that is God's standard!

Paul also commanded, "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme" (1 Tim 1:18-20). Shipwrecking the faith of believers? Yes! In fact, in our age the 'Hymenaeus and Alexander effect' runs rampant.

MANY ENQUIRIES



We continue to receive e-mails, phone calls and hand written letters from people asking us about where they can find a good church home. These requests have happened regularly for years now. In writing this I am reminded of my visit to Romania several years ago. When I was there I learned that many cults have destroyed Christian churches throughout Romania, leaving true Bible believers in shambles because their pastors *had never effectively taught them* how to discern and avoid spiritual deception and false teachers. Sadly, the same thing is happening all over the world today.

NEEDING FELLOWSHIP

Just this week I received two more requests from people desperately seeking to find sound Bible teaching in balanced Christian churches. I spoke to one person on the telephone for an hour. This person lives in a village in Northern Scotland. I had met some of this individual's friends when I had visited there *ten years ago*. Ten years after I visit the outskirts of Aberdeen, someone 6,000 miles away contacts me and asks if I know of a good church fellowship near them? Amazing!

CONTINUING STEADFASTLY

As an encouragement to believers in Christ who are in desperate need of fellowship, I want to encourage you to find like-minded believers in your sphere of life and circumstances. Proactively get to know them and do what Acts 2:42 says. This is what committed Christians have done throughout the ages, whether they had a "church" to go to or not! "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

With thanks for your prayers and support.

- Chris Lawson



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