
BIBLE TALK

This week we are continuing our question from last week: **Is the church becoming politically correct?**

Our society does not want to condemn anyone or anything. Everything is considered to be relative and nothing is believed to be absolute. People do not believe in absolute truth any more. Everything is to be tolerated except intolerance. If someone is stupid enough or arrogant enough to believe that they are right and others are wrong, they are branded as intolerant, insensitive, and bigoted. Today it is considered wrong to debate – especially religion. It is considered unChristian and ungodly to dispute and argue about religious matters.

- Rather than argue and dispute, we are suppose to keep silence.
- We are not to offer any correction.
- We are not to say anything or anyone is wrong.
- Everything is to be tolerated and condoned and nothing is to be criticized.

But our study last week revealed that both the Lord and the apostles disputed and argued “with” others. In Mk. 8:11 Jesus argued “with” the Pharisees and the word “with” necessarily implies that both Jesus and the Pharisees were involved in the argument. In other words, Jesus didn’t just walk away. He didn’t just keep silent. He did not smile and agree that doctrine is irrelevant or that religious practices are flexible. In other words, Jesus was not ecumenical. He did not teach that everyone was going to heaven – just trying to get there different ways.

Likewise, the apostles were not ecumenical. They disputed with people – argued that there was only one right doctrine and one, inflexible way to worship and serve God. The apostle Paul even spoke a curse against anyone who would teach any other doctrine than what had been delivered to the Galatians! The apostles taught the same thing in every place they went:

1 Corinthians 4:17

17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, **as I teach everywhere in every church.**

Paul taught the same thing in every place he went. Paul went on to say:

Galatians 1:8-9

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

QUESTION: If every church was taught the very same thing, were there different kinds of churches in those days? Were there different ways of being saved? Different ways of conducting the worship services?

My friend, how can people who claim to believe the NT think that all the religious division and variety of churches is acceptable with God? How can we remain silent and not debate and dispute with those who are opposed to us?

- Yes ... it's critical that we maintain a charitable attitude and
- Yes ... we must treat people with respect and honor, but
- We cannot remain silent and accept division and ignore practices and doctrines which clearly violate the revealed word of God.

MARTIN LUTHER

Let me remind you of the great "Reformation Movement" which awakened the world and brought men out of the "Dark Ages."

On October 31, 1517 the Catholic Priest, Martin Luther, nailed to his church door, in Wittenberg, Germany, ninety-five theses in which he set forth his opposition to indulgences and offered to debate any who differed with him. By 1519 the debate challenge was accepted by John Eck. This debate was an overwhelming success in awakening men to the fact that the authority of the Pope was not on equal footing with the canon of holy scriptures. By 1520 the Pope was so enraged that he issued a bull of excommunication which stated that "unless Luther would recant he would be cast out of the church. To show his contempt for such a document, Luther called together the students of Wittenberg, paraded through the streets and burned the papal bull. For good measure they also threw in a copy of the canon law and some theological treatises of the day." (The Eternal Kingdom, F. W. Mattox, p. 245-246.)

I ask you: What if Luther had lived in today's society? What would have occurred? He would probably have been labeled as a trouble-maker, an intolerant bigot. Luther had the nerve and

audacity to think that he was right and that others were wrong. Luther was intolerant of the papal system. Furthermore, Luther translated the scriptures from Latin into German (the language of his people) thinking that the common man should be able to read and understand the scriptures for himself. He held to the old-fashioned notion that (1) the scriptures were true, (2) that common men could understand the scriptures for themselves, and (3) that the scriptures should be debated and argued for the sake of truth. His debates brought about a great reformation and we are free today because of such men as Martin Luther.

Where is this spirit of willingness to discuss, debate, and argue the scriptures? It is virtually dead.

- We have become “politically correct.”
- We have become tolerant to the point that we will tolerate anything except intolerance.
- The church has become ecumenical and willing to shut its eyes to doctrines and practices which have absolutely no Bible authority whatsoever – and no one is suppose to say anything against it, for that would be mean-spirited, bigoted and intolerant.

My friend, in the words of James 3:10, “these things ought not to be so.” We should be like the Bereans of old:

Acts 17:11

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

These people checked-out and verified that what they were being taught was the truth and agreed with the scriptures they had. They were not gullible – accepting things that were taught without questioning them. They believed in truth – absolute truth and they rejected relativism. In short, they were “politically incorrect” by today’s standards.

My friend, I appeal to your reasoning. Don’t accept the “political correctness” of our day. Be willing to discuss, in the spirit of Christ and His apostles, the differences which exist in the religious world. Do not accept the false conclusion that everyone is headed for heaven, but they’re just getting there different ways. My friend, there is only one way to heaven – that’s the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word,** you are My disciples indeed.

32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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