
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Is the church teaching religious relativism?** In other words, why do some churches teach that what God leads one man to do is not necessarily what He will lead others to do?

Relativism is a very serious problem in America and it is spilling over into religion.

(1) In society our young people are being taught relativism concerning moral issues. They are being taught, for example:

What's wrong for you may not be wrong for someone else. In other words:

- Abortion may be wrong for you, but that doesn't make it wrong for others.
- Fornication may be wrong for you, but under certain circumstances it may be acceptable for others.

Again, relativism argues, What right have you to impose your values on others?

As a result of this philosophy, we now have a generation of young people who do not believe there are definite moral principles that make some things always right and other things always wrong.

(2) This philosophy is also being taught by preachers concerning religious matters. For example, some preachers teach:

What's wrong for one church to do may not necessarily be wrong for another church to do.

- Allowing women to speak in the church may have been wrong in Bible days for the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 14:34-35), but it may be acceptable by other churches in other circumstances.
- Sprinkling for baptism may be wrong for some people, but under certain circumstances (like sickness) it may be perfectly alright.
- Baptism may have been necessary for the Jews on Pentecost in Acts 2:38, but under other circumstances people can be saved without it.

In other words, our young people are being taught in public schools that every moral issue is relative. Depending on the circumstances and the people involved something may be right or wrong, but we cannot say with certainty that some things are always right and other things are always wrong.

Likewise, American church-goers are being indoctrinated with a similar idea that every religious issue is relative. Depending on the circumstances and the people involved something may be right or wrong, but we cannot say with certainty that some religious practices are always right and other things are always wrong.

RELIGIOUS RELATIVISM IS WRONG

No apostle or prophet in the Bible ever taught or suggested that things were relative in religion. Listen carefully to the following passages:

Galatians 1:8-9

8 But even if **we** [i.e. apostles], 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.

Matthew 24:35

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Revelation 22:18-19

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The point of all these passages is that the New Testament scriptures form the standard of religious and moral authority today.

The New Testament scriptures are God's final and unchangeable standard for men and women today. Unlike the Old Testament scriptures, the New Testament scriptures will not be nullified, replaced, nor amended.

Hebrews 5:9

9 And having been perfected, [Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey** Him,

1 Peter 1:22

22 Since you have purified your souls in **obeying the truth** ...

Romans 6:17-18

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been **set free from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness.

All these passages are saying the same thing. They are saying:

- (a) If anyone wishes to be saved, they must obey what Jesus said in the New Testament scriptures.
 - (b) The New Testament scriptures will not change or be amended.
 - (c) Therefore, in all religious and moral matters, there is no such thing as relativism.
- All men must do the same thing to get saved.
 - All men must do the same thing to stay saved.
 - All men must worship in the same way.

My friend, if your church teaches that things are relative in religious and moral issues, you need to consider seriously about leaving and becoming part of a congregation that views God's inerrant words as the absolute standard of right and wrong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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