
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Is the church becoming politically correct?**

In the days of the early church, when the apostles were still alive, the entire world knew where the church stood. By today's standards, the early church was "politically incorrect." The church in those days taught that there was only one way of being saved.

Acts 4:12

12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Here the apostles were saying that through Jesus and only through Jesus could men be saved. They got this from the Lord Himself, for it was Jesus who said:

John 14:6

6 ... "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Do you realize what this means? If we take what Jesus said seriously and what the apostles said seriously, it means:

- All Jews who do not accept Jesus as the Son of God – creator of heaven and earth – they are lost; they are not God's chosen people entitled to automatic entrance to heaven at the end of time.

This is not "politically correct" by today's standards. Again:

- All Moslems are lost unless they come to accept Jesus as the only way of being saved.
- All Hindus and Buddhists are lost unless they forsake their religious beliefs and accept what Jesus and His apostles taught.

- All Native Americans are lost unless they forsake their tribal customs and heritage and accept what Jesus and His apostles taught.

In fact, do you realize that it goes even further than this? Do you realize that even churches who claim to believe in Jesus are lost unless they submit to all that the Lord and His apostles taught?

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.

A curse was placed upon any man, or group of men, who would teach anything differently from what the apostles taught. This is not “politically correct.”

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

My question to you is this: **“Is the church today becoming politically correct?”** Is there not a reluctance on the part of many churches today to admit that they are right and all these others are wrong?

- Political correctness says that no one has the right to say that anyone is wrong.
- Political correctness teaches that there is no absolute right or wrong – that everything is relative.
- Political correctness teaches that it is wrong to argue about the scriptures. Somehow arguing the scriptures is viewed as “unChristian” and “ungodly.” We are suppose to simply accept one another’s beliefs and practices without saying one is right and the other is wrong.

Neither the Lord nor the apostles had a problem with arguing about the scriptures.

Mark 8:11

11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to **dispute with Him**, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.

Here the Pharisees disputed **with** Jesus. The word “with” indicates that the Lord was disputing back. A dispute necessarily implies that both parties were involved in the dispute. If only the Pharisees were arguing, it could not be truthfully said that they disputed “with” Jesus.

Acts 9:29

29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.

Here the apostle Paul disputed with the Hellenists. This necessarily implies two things: (1) it is not inherently wrong to dispute about the scriptures, and (2) the apostle was saying the Hellenists were wrong in what they believed and practiced. After all, there would be no dispute if the apostle had said the Hellenists were right in their beliefs. Paul was arguing that he was right and they were wrong.

Acts 15:6-7

6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Here is a dispute among disciples of the Lord. Disputing is not inherently wrong. In fact, this dispute settled a very serious problem in the early church. It brought about unity based on truth. The apostles and elders did not decide to ignore the differences and attempt to have a false unity. They insisted that they were right and those who opposed them must change their views.

Yet today many who call themselves “Christians” refuse to dispute or argue the scriptures with anyone who disagrees with them. Here is what we have in the so-called “Christian community” today:

- Christians are not to insist that other Christians are wrong.
- Christians are not to insist that they are right – for this would be arrogance in the extreme.

- Christians are to be open to the idea that there are many ways leading to heaven and to insist on one way is bigoted.
- Christians are to be open to the idea that there are many ways to worship God and to insist on one and only one way is dogmatic.

Please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. Christians are not free to treat others with contempt or disdain. But arguing and disputing by Christians is not inherently contemptible or disdainful.

- Jesus argued with the Pharisees, but He was not contemptible or disdainful on His end of the argument.
- The apostles argued and disputed with people all the time and there is no record that any of them were contemptible or disdainful.

The differences which exist among Bible-believing people may not be resolved after disputing, but they surely won't be resolved without disputing. Think about that.

Our time is up for now. Call back next week as we continue our study of this question.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.