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SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW THE VISION GOD
HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART

His Way Newsletter

The Real Heretic Will Arise

By Doug Cook

In the previous edition of our newsletter we attended to the separator between bloodline (Jew and Gentile) believers in the “one new man” body of Christ. In addition to that obstacle is the barrier that divides us and then generates the multitudes of denominations and “nondenominational” denominations. The body of Christ, as a whole, has excelled in following the “letter” of 2 Corinthians 6:17 amongst ourselves; *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”* The quandary is, this verse is referring to worldly people, not fellow believers. If we candidly look at the church today, it would reveal that “Christians” are very much a friend of the world and an enemy of each other—the reverse of biblical direction. We “bite and devour one another” (Gal. 5:15) with meticulous efficiency.

In these last decades, the number of believers dividing and separating from each other seems to be increasing in dramatic proportions. Looking at the numerous wars around the world, you find the root causes of most all of them are religious differences. In the name of religion, people of all creeds and nationalities exhibit pride, anger, strife and hatred towards the beliefs of others. With

the church being so much like the world, we see many believers displaying these same characteristics. If we are familiar with The Word, we should be able to differentiate those practicing religious division from those displaying fruits of Holy Spirit. *“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”* Math 7:20.

Galatians 5:22-23 tells us *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* If a “believer” is not displaying these fruits, then they are operating in the fruits of the flesh or a demonic spirit. If the fruits we display towards the receiving person are not of the Holy Spirit, then it usually puts the message being delivered in the same category as any other religion trying to mandate their belief, even if the theology is biblically accurate. Fruits of the flesh almost always cause strife and dissention among the other believers involved (one of the 7 abominable sins that God hates. Pro 6:16).

One thing I must interject here is that we need to use discernment and show an abundance of grace towards our brothers and sisters in the “teenage Christian” stage. Every believer goes through this stage just as we all did in our natural growth. This is when we are

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We beckon the opportunity to give you, the reader, a chance to interpose your opinions on the subjects covered in our newsletters. In future issues, we will be adding a new section entitled **“From Our Readers.”** If you wish to express your opinion — pro or con — please E-mail your civil comments to: opinion@emeraldministries.com

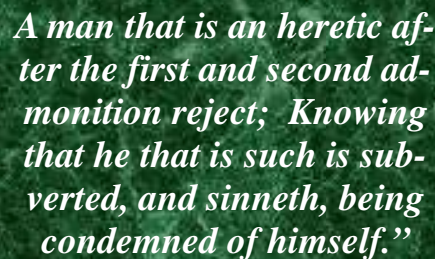
Only first names or initials will be used if the comments are published.

generally between 3 to 10 years old in our spiritual growth with the Lord. We've listened to a lot of preachers and gained a lot of bible knowledge and think we "know a lot," just like we acted as teenagers in high school with our parents. We sometimes become zealous with our knowledge during these times as God matures us. But even if the flesh does show through in these phases of growth, when teenagers disagree, they should be very careful not to display anger or hatred.

The more I study the bible the more I recognize there are a lot of pastors who are not researching their own bibles and therefore don't have the knowledge to teach biblical truths. A pastor teaches something that sounds good and tickles the ears of their flock, and then other pastors begin teaching the same thing because it increases numbers attending their church buildings. After a decade or two, the false teaching has circulated through the whole church and most believers think it's biblically sound doctrine because scores of big name pastors sermonize it and most followers are depending on those pastors to interpret their bibles for them. A good number of the flock are resting comfortably in their pews, listening and repeating the same false doctrine until someone comes along who is studying their bible and says, "Wait a minute, that's not what the bible says." That's the point at which you see those operating in the flesh begin to display fruits of a spirit, that is certainly not Holy, against the person that is questioning the status-quo.

Most of us in the body of Christ will not agree on everything

because God has us in different places in our glory-to-glory walk. I have some very close Christian brothers and sisters that disagree with me on several issues, but we remain close friends because of our love for each other. We sometimes have to agree to disagree but we always display the fruits of the spirit to keep **unity** within the body. Paul exhorts us to act this way in Philippians 2:2-3, "*Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife*



A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Titus 3:10-11

or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Disagreement also helps each of us to grow in our walk because iron sharpens iron. We will never be able to grow to maturity in the Lord if we agree with everyone's doctrine or endeavor to always sit under the teaching of a pastor that we agree with. When disagreement comes, it should send us to our bibles to do more research to see if God is trying to perfect us in that particular area of our knowledge.

Unfortunately, what we see occurring in countless cases these days and in the past is when "Christians" disagree with another believers understanding of The Word, they seem to think

they must divide and separate from them and then surround themselves with others that only think like they do — hence the myriad of denominations. These folks are your best friend as long as they think your doctrine lines up with theirs. As you converse with them, you can tell by their dialogue they have been listening to the popular Christian TV icons because they sound just like them and the pastor of the fellowship they are attending. They also have a tendency to be legalistic in trying to keep and follow Old Covenant laws, not even realizing they themselves are falling way below Gods standard. You will most likely notice that these barrier-builders excel in chatter, even though Proverbs is full of snippets exhorting us to be slow to speak.

Once you do manage to communicate some of your beliefs, that these divide-and-separate types adamantly oppose, even though you support your beliefs with numerous scripture references, you will see anger rising up inside them and their whole countenance will change. Their reactions will vary at this point and they usually will only have 1 or 2 scriptures (or pastors) to support their position. Some will try to give you a teaching CD, tape, or book from pastor so-and-so, which is a clear indication they have aligned themselves with A man and not The Man, Christ Jesus. A few of them will instantly rebuke you – boldly denouncing your skewed doctrine; some will change the subject and talk about the weather; some will shut the conversation down and make an excuse to walk away. Either way, your "friendship" will take a new course and you probably won't see much of them again. From that day forth, even thought they may not outwardly express it, you will probably be branded a "**heretic**" in their eyes.

So, what does the bible say about heretics? Titus 3:9-11 states, *“But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”* These like-doctrine denominationalists in the church could certainly justify their separation from us “false doctrine heretics” with this passage. All they would have to do is try to correct us twice then they have biblical grounds to reject us! This scripture “clearly states” their division is justified – but is it really that “clear?” First dilemma is that biblical truth is established by the sum of ALL the words in the bible, not just one verse. (Psalms 119:160 *The sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever.*) Secondly, we would need to understand the biblical definition of a heretic.

Let’s evaluate the characterization of a heretic from three different sources.

Webster’s: *“In Scripture and primitive usage, heresy meant merely sect, party, or the doctrines of a sect, as we now use denomination or persuasion, implying no reproach.”*

Vines dictionary: *“Notes a capability of choosing, causing division by a parting spirit or faction.”*

Thayer’s Lexicon: *“that which is chosen, a body of men following their own tenets (sect or party), dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims.”*

If we look closely at these definitions you will see that a “heretic” is NOT defined as a person with a

false doctrine. In fact, according to these definitions, one can have a true biblical doctrine and still be a heretic. By description, a heretic is someone who causes division or divides and separates from other brothers and sisters because of diversity of opinions; one who is a factious person that creates dissensions by way of a parting or religious spirit; one who creates division among the brethren. (Again, one of the 7 abominable sins of Proverbs 6 that God hates!)

Comments Welcome

Contribute to the section

“From Our Readers”

Coming soon to future editions.

Everyone has opinions where
The Word is concerned!

Even though God may not
agree with our theology,
His “Love covers a
multitude of faults.”

Please E-mail opinions to:
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Effectively, those “Christians” that call you the heretic, after dividing and separating because they don’t agree with your doctrine or opinion, are they themselves the heretics the bible speaks about. The “parting spirit” is evident through their fruits of pride and anger. According to Titus 3:9, after we who want unity try to admonish the divisive person a couple of times, it is us who should reject them! Although, in most cases I have witnessed personally, I haven’t had to reject them because, by way of heretics own nature, they are the ones that are quick to segregate themselves.

The apostle Paul warned us that there will be heretics that come into the church. In 1 Corinthians 11:18-19 Paul says, *“For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”* Paul said he heard there were divisions among the church body and goes on to reinforce there must be divisions so that those who do not have a true heart for Jesus and a love for the other brethren will be exposed. When you get to the heart of the matter, denominations and non-denominational denominations are not of God, and those Christians that align themselves with them and their pastors are heretical.

God is revealing the real heretics within the body of Christ, and Galatians 5:20-21 explains what will happen to those that don’t repent and turn from this evil practice. *“Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* Separating from fellow believers, without being on true biblical grounds, is a dangerous position to be in.

Brothers and sisters, the world is supposed to be able to tell we are Christians by our love for each other, not by dissecting fellow believers over doctrinal differences.

Pray that God will be merciful and open our eyes to the deception of the evil religious practices embedded in the church today.

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Forche`s Forte`

Judge Deborah!

By Carolyn Forche`

Judge Judy! Judge Joe Brown, Judge who?? And the list goes on of gavel-wielding, judicial TV entertainers. They behave with the same inane ignorance, vulgarity and dishonor as the hoochie-mammas, city slicksters and back-woods plaintiffs and defendants who stand before them seeking money for disgraceful life choices that should never be aired publicly. I only see them when I`m literally held captive under the dryer at the hair salon.

I have heard mouth-dropping expletives come from the judges themselves! Things that -- had a defendant spouted off in front of a judge in times past, they would have been ruled in contempt of court or ordered removed from the courtroom. "Order in the court" once commanded silence. Today`s Judges, both on and off TV, have made a mockery of justice -- from legalizing abortion to forcing 5-year old children in California`s 9th District to respond to sexual surveys that would make the most liberal adults cringe with embarrassment. Not so with Judge Deborah.

She could be found sitting, not behind an elevated bench, but she held court in the hill country of Ephraim, under a tree (as was the custom of that day), called "Deborah`s Palm Tree." Chosen by God to rule Israel, Judge Deborah ruled with power, wisdom and dignity. God chose this woman to lead in warfare, settle disputes and exhort the people regarding their acts before Almighty God. It was this Judge and Prophetess, Deborah, who led the people back to God after twenty years of unbearable captivity under the rule of King Jabin and his fierce army general -- Sisera.

Finally, Judge Deborah summoned her own military general, Barak, to mobilize ten thousand men to go into battle against Jabin`s army with their 900 iron and wooden chariots, assuring him that God would be with him. Barak respected Judge Deborah, but became intimidated about going up against Jabin`s army, telling Judge Deborah that he would only go into battle if she went with him. (Judges 4:8) Although Deborah did not punish him, she gave him a lesson in leadership and boldness in following the directives of God. She agreed to go with Barak into battle, but warned him that the honor of conquering Sisera would not go to him, but to a woman!

Was she patting herself on the back? -- No. She was speaking prophetically. Israel`s army, under Deborah`s leadership, killed every man in King Jabin`s army, except Sisera. He escaped from his chariot, fled on foot, ending up pleading for his life in the tent of another woman -- Jael, who *pretended* to give him safety and a drink of water. When he fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael drove the peg of her tent into his temples as he slept and killed him, fulfilling Judge Deborah`s prophetic word from God. Judges 4 and 5 tell the whole story.

Deborah`s assurance that God would be with Barak was not enough for him. We cannot expect honor, respect or progress in our appointed positions, if God alone is not enough for us. We must not fold under pressure of His directives. To do so is to mistrust God. Not only did Deborah lead the people into a God-ordained battle she knew they would win, she influenced Israel to live honorably before God after the battle. The Judge Judy`s of today, on or off TV, would do well to follow her example.