

## CAN I BE WRONG BUT RIGHT? (PT 2)

### I. Can I be a part of a denomination and be right with God?

- A. Another way that some ask this question is: "Are there Christians in all denominations?"
- B. We need to see the biblical definition of the word Christian.
  - 1. The word simply means, "One belonging to Christ."
  - 2. It parallels the phrases "if ye be Christ's" and "they that are Christ's" (Galatians 3:29; 5:24).
  - 3. These two passages help us define the term.
    - a. In its context, the one who is Christ's in Galatians 3:29 is the one who has become the child of God through the faith, or gospel, of Christ.
    - b. In chapter 5, the ones belonging to Christ have put off sin and are walking according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit.
    - c. In chapter 3, the one who is God's child is the one who put on Christ in baptism (vs 26-27).
  - 4. Therefore, one is a Christian who has been obedient to the gospel of Christ and been baptized into Christ, putting Him on in baptism.
- C. When one is baptized into Christ, he has been baptized into one body according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).
  - 1. What is the body - the church (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23).
  - 2. There is only one body (Ephesians 4:4).
- D. When asking about denominations, we must understand what this means.
  - 1. There are hundreds of denominations.
  - 2. These all follow similar, but different doctrines.
  - 3. They are all governed differently, many with some earthly headquarters or earthly head.
  - 4. They each have different means of entry.
  - 5. The problem is that denominationalism, or division which is the root of the word, is condemned in scripture (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).
- E. We are not the judge of people's souls or their final destination.
- F. However, we can know what the various denominations teach.
  - 1. What about those denominations that don't recognize the deity of Jesus?
  - 2. What about denominations that don't practice baptism or do practice infant baptism?
- G. Some ask about those who were once faithful New Testament Christians but have left the Lord's church and worship in a denomination.
  - 1. Peter talks about these type people (2 Peter 2:19f).
  - 2. These people have fallen away and if they are to be considered Christians, we need to understand they are apostate or erring Christians in need of restoring.
  - 3. John refers to those who go out from us as antichrists (1 John 2:19).

- H. Some say that we are judging when we say these things.
- I. We freely admit that the Lord is judge (Acts 17:30-31).
- J. As David Pharr wrote, "We have no right to judge that people are spiritually safe when their religion is not in harmony with the Scriptures."
- K. We know from Scripture a way that is right and cannot be wrong and we would be foolish to ignore it.

## II. **Can I worship wrong and be right with God.**

- A. What is worship?
  1. It means to kiss the ring literally and in the New Testament is always directed toward deity.
  2. It is an act of reverence directed towards God in our case.
- B. God always regulated how He wants to be worshiped.
  1. He did with Cain and Abel in the Patriarchal age.
  2. He did with the Israelites in the Mosaic age.
  3. He does in the Christian age (John 4:24).
- C. We are to worship God according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 3:3 ASV - who worship God by the Spirit of God...).
- D. Notice the text of Colossians 3:16-17.
  1. We are to worship.
  2. That worship is to be done by the authority of Jesus.
  3. This shows that He regulates how He is to be worshiped.
- E. Sincere people offer up worship to God all the time.
  1. We must ask if what we are offering is in line with words of Jesus.
  2. One can be sincere and wrong, with Cornelius and Saul being prime examples.
- F. The Bible reveals to us how to worship the Lord.
  1. We see those called saints or Christians singing as Paul commanded in Colossians 3:16-17.
  2. We see Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7) every first day of the week.
  3. We see Christians giving every first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
  4. We see Christians praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
  5. We see Christians preaching or teaching (Acts 20:7).
- G. Anything else is in addition to God's word.
- H. There is nothing wrong with being innovative and modern in our worship as long as it is scriptural.
  1. There is nothing wrong with using PowerPoint or some visual aid such as this.
  2. We can't label an aid as an addition.
- I. On the other hand, every time we seek to add something, we need to look ahead to where it will lead us.
  1. I don't believe you can point out scripturally that it is wrong for a few to have microphones to aid the singing.
  2. But where will this lead?
  3. In most cases, this will lead us to places we have no business

going spiritually speaking.

4. Other examples could be given for such things as this.

- J. We know it is right to sing, pray, give, preach and partake of the Lord' Supper.
- K. These things are right and they cannot be wrong because there is scriptural evidence for each of them.
- L. Again, God says there is a way to worship in truth.
- M. God's word is truth (John 17:17).
- N. If what we are doing cannot be supported by God's word then what we are doing is wrong and we need to repent and do what is right.