

Why Did We Leave And Why Are We Here?

Are we dividers or uniters when it comes to following the Word of God?

Introduction

- Find ourselves in a different place away from a local church of which we were a part and a building owned by that local church
- Find ourselves beginning a new local church today in a comfortable space that we are renting
- Why has this happened?
- Where do we hope to go from here?

2

Introduction

- There are many who are encouraging us in the actions we have taken
- But there are also some, even Christians, who will criticize us for the actions we have taken
- No matter what we do in life, someone is going to have something to say about it
- Real concern for us – have we accurately based our actions on the authorized Word of Christ?

3

Introduction

- Although human criticism may hurt, we must keep in mind that if we have disobeyed God, then something far worse than criticism will await us, eternal torment
- If God is pleased with our actions, then He expects us to not be ashamed but defend His truth and its applications to others without fearing them

4

Always Follow Jesus' Authority

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

5

Always Follow Jesus' Authority

1Co 1:11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.

1Co 1:12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

1Co 1:13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

6

Always Follow Jesus' Authority

1Co 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

7

Seek To Please Jesus Above All

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

8

Seek To Please Jesus Above All

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

9

Fear God But Do Not Fear Men

Mat 10:25 "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!

Mat 10:26 "Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

10

Fear God But Do Not Fear Men

Mat 10:27 "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

Mat 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

11

We Have Bible Authority For Why We left

- Even some of our brethren will try to assign the reason of "personality" conflicts for why we left
- Just a smoke screen covering the true reason for why we left
- In short, we left because we cannot financially and in other ways support those preachers and those who follow them if they insist on openly teaching error or not openly teaching truth

12

We Have Bible Authority For Why We left

- Our decision was not made rashly or without patiently studying with these brethren
- But, when we confirmed that they would not stand for truth on several essential matters and they would not even honestly and humbly study these things, we could then take either two roads
 - Follow Christ
 - Compromise Christ

13

Truths For Which They Will Not Stand

Marriage, divorce and remarriage
Church discipline
Authority and the work of a local church

14

Marriage, Divorce And Remarriage

What brother Samuels and those who are backing him stand for

Accept people in whatever marital status they are in

Don't study on the subject

Don't teach on the subject

15

Some Scriptures On MDR

Mat 19:6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Mat 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

16

Some Scriptures On MDR

Mat 5:31 "It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE';

Mat 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

17

Some Scriptures On MDR

Luk 16:18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery."

18

Some Scriptures On MDR

Rom 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

19

Some Scriptures On MDR

Mar 6:17 For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.

Mar 6:18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

20

How Should We React Toward Error?

Teach error ourselves

Be partners with those who teach error

Be neutral

Expose error

Sever fellowship with those who teach error

21

Teach Error Ourselves

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

22

Be Partners With Those Who Teach Error

2Jn 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2Jn 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

23

Be Partners With Those Who Teach Error

2Jn 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

24

Be Neutral

Num 23:12 He replied, "Must I not be careful to speak what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

Num 23:25 Then Balak said to Balaam, "Do not curse them at all nor bless them at all!"

25

Be Neutral

Mat 27:22 Pilate *said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all *said, "Crucify Him!"

Mat 27:23 And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!"

26

Be Neutral

Mat 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see *to that* yourselves."

27

Expose Error

Eph 5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Eph 5:12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

Eph 5:13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

28

Expose Error

Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

29

Expose Error

Jud 1:4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

30

Expose Error

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 31

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

Rom 16:18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. 32

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

Tit 3:10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,

Tit 3:11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned. 33

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

2Jn 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

2Jn 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds. 34

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. 35

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

1Co 5:3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 36

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

1Co 5:5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*?

37

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

1Co 5:7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

38

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

2Th 3:11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

39

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

2Th 3:12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

2Th 3:14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

2Th 3:15 *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

40

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

Rev 2:20 'But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of* immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

41

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

Rev 2:22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

Rev 2:23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

42

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

Rev 2:24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them--I place no other burden on you.

Rev 2:25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

43

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

- Severing fellowship should occur only when we differ over essential issues the Scriptures teach, not over personality conflicts
- Severing fellowship means we will seek to teach our erring brethren and pray for their repentance
- Severing fellowship means we will not socialize with erring brethren as if we are spiritual partners with them

44

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

- In Prospect Heights church of Christ, socializing was idolized to the point that those withdrawn from were always accepted socially and spiritually by the majority of members there
- Compared to parties, Christ's teaching meant nothing to the majority
- If we are to be a member of this local church, we will not socialize with those with whom we have severed fellowship

45

Sever Fellowship With Those Who Teach Error

- Who causes sinful divisions?
- Is it those who stand up against error and do not have fellowship with those who follow it?
- Or, is it those who follow error and want others to compromise with them?

46

Who Causes Sinful Division?

1Co 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

47

How Should We React Toward Error?

Teach error ourselves
Be partners with those who teach error
Be neutral
Expose error
Sever fellowship with those who teach error

48

Why Are We Here?

Bound together by devotion to the apostles' teaching

Determination to work and worship and grow

Sound forth the Word

49

Bound Together By Devotion To The Apostles' Teaching

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

50

Bound Together By Devotion To The Apostles' Teaching

- Should be our greatest tie together, love for the Word that shows us how to serve Him and one another
- We study to learn and to be unified together to set an example before all

51

Bound Together By Devotion To The Apostles' Teaching

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

52

Bound Together By Devotion To The Apostles' Teaching

Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Joh 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

53

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Joh 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Joh 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

54

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

1Co 14:26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

55

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

- Sometimes it is necessary to change a physical location so worship and work can be done without internal disruptions
- An example of this in Acts 19
- What I believe was taking place in the Prospect Heights church building through some rebellious members

56

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Act 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.

Act 19:9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

57

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Act 19:10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

58

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

- We seek to grow so we will more consistently live the Christian life
- When we fail to live right, we must confess and repent and go forward in doing what is right
- We must never abandon the standard of the Word by which we learn
- We seek to grow individually so we can contribute to the numerical growth of the church, His body

59

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

60

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

61

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

62

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

63

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Act 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

Act 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

64

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Act 9:28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

65

Determination To Work And Worship And Grow

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

66

Sound Forth The Word

1Th 1:6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

1Th 1:7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

67

Sound Forth The Word

1Th 1:8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

68

Sound Forth The Word

Php 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

Php 2:15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

69

Sound Forth The Word

Php 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

70

Sound Forth The Word

1Ti 3:14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long;

1Ti 3:15 but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

71

Sound Forth The Word

1Pe 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,**

1Pe 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

72

Sound Forth The Word

1Pe 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

73

Why Are We Here?

Bound together by devotion to the apostles' teaching
Determination to work and worship and grow
Sound forth the Word

74

How Should We React Toward Error?

Teach error ourselves
Be partners with those who teach error
Be neutral
Expose error
Sever fellowship with those who teach error

75