



The Voice Of Truth

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Have No Fellowship

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Is it right to attend revivals or meetings held by denominations? Is it right for a member of the church to attend the regular meetings of denominations? Our appeal should not be to human feelings or thought. We need to go to God's Word to find the answer to these questions (Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9). We MUST have the attitude of accepting what GOD says in His Word, even if that means we must give up our own ideas.

God has always required His people to be separate. "But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey: I am Jehovah your God, who hath separated you from the peoples," (Leviticus 20:24). God expected His people to be separated from the religious practices of other nations. He forbade them to intermarry, realizing that to intermarry with idolaters would be to take the chance of being led away from the one true God unto false worship. (Solomon is good example.) If it could happen to them, would it not be possible for it to happen to us?

We can safely say that idol worship would be a false worship and false doctrine. Further, it may be said that God wants His people to have no part with idol worship. But would that not also be true of any other

false religious belief or system? Denominationalism is a false system. It teaches and practices error. What is said in the Bible concerning idolatry, and the fact that God's people should have no part in it must also be said of denominationalism.

I hear, "If I attend a denominational meeting with a friend, then they may attend with me and hear the truth." Is this a valid reason? Are they acceptable to God? "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," (Ephesians 5:11). Fellowship is not open to everyone without limitations or restriction. The language of conditionally is especially clear in 1 John 1:7. We are not to participate in, or share in the unfruitful works of darkness. This would include the idea that we are not to encourage, approve, endorse, or support such works, but rather reprove them, expose them (John 3:20). "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent," (Romans 16:17-18). We are commanded to mark them and avoid them that are contrary to the doctrine. We cannot

have fellowship with those who walk in darkness. Those who are outside the light of Christ are not my people to have fellowship with!

Another principle we need to recognize is the fact that God never approves of conversions by compromise. Rather than compromising and saying, "If you attend our meeting, we will attend yours," the Bible says, "Contend earnestly for the faith ...," (Jude 3). Not once in the New Testament do we have any example of any New Testament Christian compromising in such a way with God's approval. You simply cannot compromise and contend at the same time. If someone attends our meeting and obeys the gospel as a result of hearing the Word of God, it is not because you compromised and attended with them so that they would attend with you; but, it is in spite of your compromise. God's Word is the power to save a soul (Romans 1:16; John 8:32; James 1:21). Compromise has never won a soul to Christ. Rather than compromise winning non-Christians to Christ, the Holy Spirit says it is the manner of life that the Christian lives (1 Peter 3:1-2).

If we want to make heaven our home, we need to think like God thinks and do those things the way God wants!

The Tremendous Love of Christ
Jimmy Pettigrew

Love is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, elements that we experience in Christianity. Paul said, without love I am noise, I am nothing, and I profit nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1 ff). Love should be the motive by which we do all things. "Let all your things be done with charity," (1 Corinthians 16:14). "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness," (Colossians 3:14).

Love is the strongest word in the Bible, for we read, "God is love," (1 John 4:8). This love motivated Jesus Christ to die for us! The tremendous love of Christ is shown throughout the Bible. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," (Romans 5:8). Jesus Christ

demonstrated the real love in His life and death. Jesus demonstrated the superior love, "Because he laid down his life for us," (1 John 3:16). We never knew the meaning of love until Jesus demonstrated it in His life. Jesus is our dearest friend. He was unselfish with others, the meaning of love. Paul said, "Love seeketh not her own," (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

What made the love of Christ so tremendous? He just didn't walk around saying, I love you; He showed us love! Love motivated Him to put His words into action. Jesus showed us love by keeping God's commandments; He contended for the word of God, and He sought the lost. He was a man of proper value.

We as God's children must follow the example of our Saviour and let love motivate us. Love is evidenced in keeping His commandments (John 15:10). The Lord does not ask His disciples to do that which He Himself does not do. As it was necessary for Him to keep the commandments of His Father to abide in the Father's love, so it is necessary for disciples to keep the Lord's commandments to abide in His love.

Jesus Christ showed His tremendous love by being a man of stern rebuke. He told the Sadducees, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God," (Matthew 22:29). He showed again His tremendous love by trying to keep the word of God pure. Jesus knew to stand for the truth; it is equal to loving God. The love Jesus taught is the emblem or badge of disciple-ship. By this love one may know that he is His disciple. This love proves to others that we are disciples of Christ. This love should motivate us to do more for God!

A faith that will not take us to
Every service of the Lord's church
Will not take us to heaven!

It seems a lot of people use religion as they do the
city bus;
They ride on it only as long as it is going the way
they want to go.