



The Voice Of Truth

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Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part I

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There are two views on church authority. Paul said scripture would make us complete and completely furnish us unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Yet denominations offer, recite, and bind catechisms, manuals, creeds, and disciplines. There is the Lutheran Catechism, the Catholic Catechism, the Baptist Manual, the Methodist Discipline, the book of Mormon, and on it goes, as if the Bible is insufficient. Let us examine these creeds in the weeks ahead and see how they compare to the Bible.

First, the Methodist Discipline claims to be inspired. In the Episcopal Greetings, p. 1, we read, "We have therefore expected that the Discipline would be administered, not merely as a legal document, but as a Revelation of the Holy Spirit working in and through our people." The Bible is inspired of God (2 Tim 3:16-17). Which is RIGHT or WRONG?

The Discipline teaches "faith only." On p. 29 we find, "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith is a most Wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort" The Bible When it says faith saves or justifies it is talking of a faith inclusive of works of obedience. Romans 1:5 and 16:26 talk of the "obedience of faith." "Faith only" is mentioned in the New Testament; but it teaches the very opposite. The Bible clearly refutes the doctrine of

salvation by faith alone. Please read James 2:14 Notice verse 17 says faith without works is dead in itself Verse 19 says the demons have faith alone and shudder. Verse 20 says faith only is barren. Verse 22 says that by works faith is made perfect then in verse 24 James says that one is justified by works and not by faith alone. And finally he concludes by saying faith without works is just as dead as a body without a spirit.

"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" John 12:42-43. Now this passage says they believed. Was it enough? Faith only, in their case stopped short of confessing Christ. The enormity of that situation is seen in the teaching of Jesus (Matt. 10:32-33). No, according to Jesus, faith only is not enough. One must go on and confess Jesus. Here in John 12 is an example of some who only believe, and they are lost. Which one will you take: the Bible, God's Word or Methodist Discipline?

Notice another passage. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of

God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12). These words are pretty clear. If you believe in Christ you have the right or power to become a child of God. You are not a child of God by faith only; you have the right or power to become one. The Bible clearly refutes the doctrine of salvation by faith only.

On the same page, Article of Religion No. 67 of the Discipline teaches "Original Sin." They teach we inherit the sin of Adam, so we are born with original sin. One passage they use is Romans 5:12-14, please read these passages. Well, it said sin entered the world by one man. That would be Adam. And then it clearly says death therefore passed unto all men for that all sinned. So we die because of the sin of Adam, which we all bear. So we are born with original sin. We sinned in Adam they teach.

However, I understand the "death" of this passage to be talking of spiritual death. The moral and spiritual situation of mankind is under discussion. Too, "all sinned" cannot refer to sinning in Adam for verse 14 says that from Adam to Moses men did not sin after likeness of Adam's sin. They were not guilty of a sin like Adam's. They were guilty of another kind of sin. If they sinned in Adam, they did sin after the likeness of Adam sin.

Further, it is argued that through one man sin entered into the world. So they teach it is inherited, all sin in their father Adam, so death passes unto all men. But how does sin enter into the world by one man? Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From then on one could learn good and evil and when he chose the evil he sinned and thus died spiritually. Sin did not pass into the world by being inherited. Because Adam ate the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, mankind from then on lost its innocence, sinned, even not after the likeness of Adam's sin, and so death passed to them.

The Holy Spirit declares that the child shall not bear the iniquity of the parent (Ezek. 18:20).

David was not of the belief that his child died with a corrupted nature and guilty of sin. "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (2 Sam. 12:23).

The Bible teaches that each man is responsible for his own sin. Never is it indicated that one person is responsible for another person's sin. "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin" (Deut. 24:16). "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12).

No, we are not born with original sin, nor are we born depraved. The Bible is right and the Discipline is wrong! What a tragedy that many people will stand in judgment, facing the grim reality that they built upon the wrong foundation in life. Which one will take your stand with?