



The Voice Of Truth

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Hillcrest church of Christ

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Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part X

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We will examine some of the doctrine of the Independent Christian faith which places them in opposition to the doctrine of Christ.

Instrumental music in worship. For many, this is the only difference that is recognized between the Independent Christian faith and the Lord's church. Too many of the members of the Independent Christian faith believe it is a matter of indifference, a matter of opinion, and that one can worship with it or without it and be equally acceptable before God.

When one turns to the Bible, he sees that every reference to Christian worship authorizes Christians to sing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), with NO reference to playing of an instrument. Where does God's Word, expressed in the New Testament, advocate the use of mechanical instruments in worship? Not anywhere! Instrumental music in Christian worship is vain worship because it originated with man, not with God. By using instrumental music in worship, one rejects God's authority and is not adhering to the doctrine of Christ.

There is not anything wrong with instrumental music as a God-given art or science. Within itself it is not a matter of morals, of right or wrong. It is just like eating ham and eggs are not moral issue. However, eating ham and eggs would become a sin if performed as an act of worship in the Lord's Supper, because the law of Christ allows only the kind of food that He specified and that is bread and the fruit of the vine. It would also be like bathing or sprinkling water on a

baby would be morally right, but do so as a religious act, calling it baptism would become a sin because it has no authorization by Christ; He did not command it. There is no more authority to add instrumental music as a part of Christian worship than it would be to put jelly on the bread at the Lord's Table. God has told us what He wants; He does not have to say, "Thou shall not use instrumental music in worship." Having told us what He wants, He does not have to give us a list of all those things that He does not want. In telling us what He requires, He eliminates all others, and they are thus unauthorized! (Hebrews 7:14).

Members of the Independent Christian faith hold to the false teaching of Premillennialism. They are unable to see any problem in holding to such a teaching that makes the church of our Lord simply an after-thought in the mind of God. Premillennialism teaches that the kingdom was postponed because Christ was rejected as King, and as a result, the church was substituted until He shall return to establish His kingdom. The Bible teaches that the church was not an after-thought, but rather was in God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:10-11). Then Paul said, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). John joins in the refutation of premillennialism by reminding all that he was in the kingdom while exiled on the isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:9). "If there was no kingdom, where was I?" asks John. Peter informs premillennialism that Jesus is now sitting

on David's throne - not in Jerusalem, but in heaven (Acts 2:30-36)! If one has a throne, he certainly has a kingdom! Therefore, to say that the kingdom has not been established is to oppose the very Word of God!

There are a number among the leadership of the Independent Christian faith who accepts any immersion, without it being for the remission of sins. From a letter from a preacher of the Christian faith responding to an inquiry about his position on baptism, "I do not teach that baptism is a necessity for the remission of sins . . ." "My own stand on baptism is that... it is an outward expression of inward change . . . that it is not necessary for salvation, for forgiveness of sins, nor is it necessary to receive the Holy Spirit." (Restoration Herald, January, 1991, page 2.)

If this is true, then the new life of the saved person would also begin prior to baptism. Yet, Paul says that the new life occurs after baptism (Romans 6:4). The same thought is found in Colossians 2:11-12. In these last days, baptism saves us (1 Peter 3:21). This baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Baptism washes away our sins (Acts 22:16).

There is NO WAY that faithful children of God can fellowship the members of the Independent Christian faith. Let us ever "contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints Oude 3).

I hope that you enjoyed these articles dealing with other faiths. I hope you learned something from them. Let it be clearly understood that these articles in no wise are personal attacks on anyone. We have a responsibility to expose and refute error, wherever it is found. For this we make no apologies.

The People In This Congregation

by Wayne Greeson

An old man was sitting out on his front porch whitlin' and enjoying the sunny day. Into town drove a stranger who stopped in front of the old man's house. The stranger rolled down his car window, stuck his head out and yelled, "Hey, old man, what kind of people are in this town?" The old gent leaned back, looked at the stranger and said, "Well fella, just what kind of people were there in the town you just came from?" "Why they were the most unfriendly, unlikable and disagreeable folks you ever saw" the man replied. "Well," answered the old man, "That's just the kind of people that are in this town." With that answer the stranger roared off out of town and out of sight. A little while later, into town drove another stranger. This man saw the older man on his porch and he pulled up, stopped the car and got out. "Good afternoon sir. How are you this fine day?" the young man

cheerfully called out. "I'm doin' very well thank you, and it is a mighty fine day" the older man grinned. "Well sir, I'm a little new around here, mind if I sit and we talk a bit?" the younger man inquired. "Sure, come on up here and sit" the older man invited. The younger man ambled up and took a seat on the broad porch. "Well, there is really just one question I have," he began, "What kind of people are in this town?" The older man gently smiled, "Well, just what kind of people were in the town you came from?" "Well sir, they were the friendliest, nicest, most likable folks you'd ever want to meet" the young man eagerly responded. "Well, my good friend, that's jus' the kind of folks you'll find here."

Unfriendly People?

What kind of people are in this congregation? Psychologists have recognized a fundamental principle in human relations. People tend to criticize in others the very things they dislike about themselves. The man who complains about how difficult everyone else is to get along with has trouble getting along with others. The woman who is constantly criticizing how others raise their children, feels that she did not raise her own children properly. The Bible recognizes this behavior of self-deception. It is the problem of trying to hide one's own faults by criticizing another. Jesus warned about those who look for specks in others, while they carry a plank in their own eye (Matt. 7:1-5).

Remove the Plank

Have you ever complained that a congregation or another Christian was unfriendly? Maybe they were not friendly or maybe they were. Instead of complaining how unfriendly others are to me, I need to seriously ask the Lord and myself, "Lord, is it I?" (Matt. 22:26). Am I the one who turns and looks the other way to keep from speaking to someone? Am I the one who quickly slips into a tight-circle of family or friends and ignore others? Am I the one who races for the door the minute services are over? Am I the one who refuses to speak unless the other person speaks first. When I accuse another of being unfriendly, am I being unfriendly? Jesus told speck seekers, "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Matt. 7:5).

Be Friendly

The wise man of Proverbs provided a solution on how to handle those we think are unfriendly! "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24). If you think someone is unfriendly to you, then you need to become more friendly. Maybe the person you think is unfriendly is just shy. Maybe they are waiting for you to speak first. Maybe they are thinking about other things. Maybe they have troubles and burdens that are bothering them. "Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts" (Prov. 19:6). If you want others to be your friends and friendly to you, you must be generous, loving and giving to them. Those who see all others as unfriendly are unwilling to give what it takes to receive friendliness. Receivers of friendliness are givers of warm smiles, hearty handshakes and kind encouraging words. Don't wait for the other person to approach and talk to you, walk up and talk to them. Smile and be friendly. You'll be amazed how friendly people, who you thought were unfriendly, can be.

The Friendliest, Nicest, Most Likable Folks

Before I complain about other people, I need to see if I am part of the problem. If the congregation is unfriendly then it is up to me to be friendly and to change it. Then I can say, "[This congregation has the friendliest, nicest, most likeable folks you'd ever want to meet!](#)"

<http://www.padfield.com/2002/congregation.html>