



# The Voice of Truth

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## **Should Christians Support The Salvation Army?** By Jimmy Pettigrew

This is the time of year in which you see the Salvation Army bell ringers at almost every store looking for donations. The question is, "Should Christians support the Salvation Army?" Let us examine the teachings of the Salvation Army, and what the Bible teaches. Remember, teaching false doctrine is sin, and the Lord will punish those who do so (**Gal 1:8; 2; 2 John 9-11**). The book of Jude tells us that God reserved the blackness of darkness, punishment of eternal fire for such false teachers.

The Salvation Army teaches that in consequence of our first parents' sin, we are born sinners, totally depraved, having inherited a disposition to self-pleasing (Handbook, pp. 85-86). Sin is not inherited, infants do not inherit the sins of their parents (**Ezekiel 18:20**), and little ones know neither good nor evil (**Deuteronomy 1:39**). Through growth children learn to choose between good and evil (**Isaiah 7:15-16**). God is the Father of our spirits (**Hebrews 12:9**), hence, when they come from Him (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**), they are as pure as the Source. In **Matthew 18:3** the purity of little children is here revealed. Man begins to practice evil in his youth (**Genesis 8:21**). Jesus had a human mother, was he at least half depraved?

The Salvation Army doctrine contends that man has no way to be saved simply through the Gospel message of salvation; rather, he must receive a special illumination of the Holy Spirit, so that he may personally know the Word is true (Handbook, pp. 89, 133). This, of course, is in contradiction with **Romans 1:16** which show that the Gospel is the power of God to save. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, why?" "For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." James tells us "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (**James 1:21**). "For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God" (**1 Corinthians 1:18**).

The Salvation Army ministers no baptism. They assert that it is not necessary in order to receive salvation. They reason that there are climates and circumstances which would make immersion impractical, hence only repentance and faith are required (Handbook, pp. 185-186). But, Christ taught otherwise. He commanded that the Gospel be preached throughout the whole world and he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (**Mark 16:16**). Peter having affirmed that salvation in the days of Noah was through water of the flood (**1 Peter 3:20**), now draws a comparison with the water of baptism (**1 Peter 3:21**). Salvation offered through water in the days of Noah is exactly parallel to salvation offered through water baptism. The Salvation Army has no authority to change this divine ordinance.

The Salvation Army makes no provision for the memorial of the Lord's Supper. Though Jesus plainly said of the memorial supper, "This do in remembrance of me" (**1 Corinthians 11:24**), the Salvation Army excludes it, amazingly, that they might testify to themselves and others against the danger of trusting to any external rite as though it has virtue in itself

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(Handbook, p. 88). The Salvation Army testimony is that of unbelief!

The use of mechanical instrumental music for Christian worship is not authorized by the New Testament. It is an addition to the specific New Testament command to sing (**Ephesians 5:19**), and it is well known that it was a human introduction of the seventh century A.D. But, music plays an important part in Salvation Army religious work . . . it is symbolic of the cheerful quality of Salvation Army religion (What is the Salvation Army?, p. 25). It is further symbolic of the Salvation Army's disregard of sacred truth! The New Testament specifically authorizes singing as an act of Christian worship (**Colossians 3:16**). The use of mechanical instruments in worship is unknown to the New Testament.

The Salvation Army also uses women preachers in its teaching system. Catherine Booth (the founder's wife) was a woman preacher who addressed great audiences. She wrote vigorous defense of female ministry. The Bible prohibits a woman functioning in such a capacity (1 Timothy 2:12 ff); she cannot be a public preacher to sexually integrated audiences. The woman is not to function in the teaching role so as to 'subordinate man; nor is she to dominate him. He is head; she is to be submissive (**1 Corinthians I 11:3; 14:34**).

In the New Testament, the work of the church was supported strictly by free-will contributions from its members (**Acts 11:29; 1 Corinthians 16:2**). **The Salvation Army is involved in various enterprises for the raising money, and, according to one of their book, must even look to the public for some of its financial support (p.26).**

The Salvation Army is a false religion they do not follow God's word and no Christian should support this sect. The Christian does not follow, aid, agree or encourage ungodly teaching! He takes wiser counsel and walks in the commandments of the Lord, his footsteps are ordered by the word of God (**Psa. 86:11**). It is wrong for you and I to consent or take pleasure in anything that is wrong. We are not to aid or consent or enjoy those things that are wrong (**Rom. 1:32**). "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into (your) house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works" (**2 Jno. 9-11**). Those who are outside the light of Christ are not people to have fellowship with, I cannot encourage them, I cannot aid them, and I cannot help them in any way. If God doesn't have fellowship with those who don't walk in the light, how can His children! It is possible to become "partakers of others men's sins" (**1 Tim. 5:22**). Any joint participation with those who walk in darkness is itself sin. There is no middle ground expect the ground of compromise. If one participates, aids (giving of money) to those who are teaching and practicing error, he is endorsing, agreeing, and encouraging their error. We must be careful to avoid guilt by association.

What are the faithful to do? The Lord's answer is clear: "Come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (**Rev. 18:4**). The inspired instruction is; "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them" (**Eph. 5:11**).

### **Peace in the Congregation** By Connie W. Adams

So often the work of a local church is greatly hindered by internal dissensions. Some congregations have a history of prolonged fussing and feuding over one thing or another. They have very little influence for good in the community for they have become so lost in their own conflicts that they have lost sight of the fields "white unto harvest" and are completely taken up in biting and devouring one another (**Galatians 5:15**).

I have been to places for meetings where there was so much strife and ill-will that every lesson would have to be directed toward the church in an effort to settle such unnecessary squabbles. Sometimes brethren caught up in such disputes cannot even remember what started the trouble.

### At Peace or Dead?

Some brethren have boasted that they are at peace when in reality they are dead. The church at Sardis had a name that it lived but was dead (**Revelation 3:1**). One brother bragged that the congregation he attended had no friction. Another, who knew the congregation well, suggested that it takes moving parts to have friction. There are congregations which expired long ago and just need someone to come and preach their funeral! The peace of the cemetery is not that of which we speak here.

### Things Which Destroy Peace

(1)*Being soon angry.* Some have explosive tempers which can be ignited with very little spark. Turn one of these men loose in a business meeting, or a hotheaded sister loose on the telephone, after they think they have been wronged, and then run for cover. Things could get bad! Paul said to put off anger (**Colossians 3:8**). An elder is not to be soon angry (**Titus 1:7**). Solomon gave us the way to respond to anger. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (**Proverbs 15: 1**).

(2)*Selfishness.* There are those who are determined to have their way at all cost. In matters of judgment, their judgment must always prevail. In such matters, all will not agree. Someone must yield. Elders must not be "self-willed" (**Titus 1:7**), but then neither should other members—who sometimes demand that they have their way or else they will disrupt the peace of the church, divide it if possible and lure just as many members away as they can.

(3)*Desire for preeminence.* John wrote of "Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them" (**3 John 9**). Some men are natural-born leaders. If you do not think so, just ask them! Some men and women are determined to run things or else they will not play. They do not want to be just a laborer in the vineyard they must be a supervisor.

(4)*Self-justification.* It is difficult for some to admit wrong. A position is taken, wrong words are said or improper acts performed, and instead of confessing the error and changing the course of action, self-justification sets in. Then there is the Devil to pay. When we do wrong, we need the spirit of the prodigal son who came home and said, "I have sinned."

(5)*Ignorance.* Some disruptions in churches occur because of sheer ignorance of what the Bible teaches. Jesus said those baptized were to be taught to "observe all things" He had commanded (**Matthew 28:20**). God said "Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge" (**Isaiah 5:13**). Hosea said "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (**Hosea 4:6**).

### Things Which Promote Peace

(1) *Genuine love for the church.* Jesus loved the church and gave himself for it (**Ephesians 5:25**). The welfare of the church is of far greater importance than any one of us. The church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" and ought not to be retarded in its work to satisfy the whims of immature, selfish and ignorant members. Those who really love the church will not want to see it suffer and bleed.

(2) *Sincere interest in the souls of others.* Not only are we hindered in reaching the souls of aliens when discord is present in the church, but we often fail in our responsibilities to each other as Christians. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of

mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (**Philippians 2:3-4**). Many weak members and babes in Christ have been destroyed because of thoughtless disturbances caused by hard-hearted brethren who would rather argue than work.

(3) *Leaving retaliation to God.* "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good" (**Romans 12:19-21**). Has someone in the congregation slighted you? Have you been shamefully mistreated? Then forget about "getting even." Leave that up to the Lord.

(4) *Understanding others.* The prophet Ezekiel said he went to those of the captivity and "sat where they sat" (**Ezekiel 3:15**). All of us are different. Our personalities, backgrounds, likes and dislikes, and daily circumstances vary. One may be in poor health at times, another distraught over family problems of which others are ignorant. There are babes in Christ who have not had time to grow to maturity. Some are weak and need patience and understanding. Each of us should give the other person the same understanding we desire for ourselves. Christians must apply the "golden rule" in their treatment of each other.

It is a sad day when brethren must come to the parting of the ways over matters of faith. Even then, it is easy for unkind things to be said and done. Some congregations have divided over nothing more than personality clashes, or disputes over who would run things, and then have laid the blame on something totally unrelated to the real problem. The cause of Christ suffers when brethren cannot rise above pettiness. Let us strive to follow after things that make for peace, doing nothing through strife or vainglory. Brethren, don't let "splinteritis" destroy the work of God.

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**Happy Is the Man Who Walks  
So Close To God That there  
IS No Room For The Devil  
To Get In Between.**

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### **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17