

Are You Like The Bereans? By Jonathan L. Perz

You might be wondering, "Who are the Bereans?" Though the Bible says little of this people, what it does say speaks volumes!

"Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men." (Acts 17:10-12)

- The Bible says they were "fair-minded!" Are you?
 - The Bible says they "received the word with all readiness!" Do you?
 - The Bible says they "searched the Scriptures daily!" Do you?
 - The Bible says they wanted "to find out if these things were so!" Do you?
- The Bible says "many of them believed?" Have you?

INDEED, THE LORD'S CHURCH NEEDS MORE OF THE BEREAN SPIRIT!

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THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. *"By their fruits ye shall know them,"* (Matthew 7:20). ♦

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

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

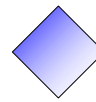


Schedule of Assembly

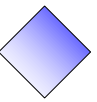
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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The Voice of Truth



July 3, 2011

Are You Homophobic? By Jimmy Pettigrew

How many times have you heard on the TV, or have read in the Newspaper that "We need to be tolerant of other people", especially when it comes to homosexuality. All one needs to do is type the word "homophobic" on "Google" of his/ her computer to see what I'm talking about. Some say that all need to have a broadminded approach, and accept this lifestyle. We should stop being so judgmental, and stop these hate crimes. On and on it goes. Many in the world convey the idea that being not tolerant of this sin is wrong, and unloving, that you are hater of same sex romantic love. Well, I have learned that those who advocate "tolerance" are not too tolerant to you, if you disagree with them. And that non-judgmental folks are quite judgmental when they judge us for judging!

"Homophobic" is now an established term for prejudiced against homosexuals. I say **YES, we ought to be homophobic** – not that we should ever treat someone in an aggressive way because of their sin. Rather, we ought to fear God's judgment concerning this sinful lifestyle. We as God's children should "hate every false way," (Psalm 119:104). Many people are shocked to find that divine hatred fills many pages in the Bible. We are taught by the God of love (1 John 4:7-8) to: abhor evil (Romans 12:9), hate evil (Psalms 97:10), hate iniquity (Hebrews 1:9). If we do not hate evil, we will some day embrace it!

The homosexual agenda is everywhere. Schools are supposed to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, but have been altered into institutions of social production. The homosexual agenda is in our schools, in the work place, in our homes through the television and has been embraced by the world. When we stand against evil and love the good (Amos 5:15), we are going to be hated, and labeled as meaning unloving. In our country, homosexuality was first despised, but then tolerated, and now it is embraced. And you're such an unloving person, if you speak against this sin. Remember, "The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil ..." (Proverbs 8:13).

In the first book of the Bible God condemns homosexuality. This was demonstrated originally in the creation of the first human beings: "Male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27). Both Jesus and Paul repeat this same understanding (Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2). God created male and female. The marriage was composed of a man and a woman. "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). A husband and wife are authorized by God to engage in sex. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and all other forms of sexual perversion, are sinful. From the beginning we know what is the intention and plan of God.

Homosexuality was strongly condemned in the Law of Moses. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death ..." (Leviticus 20:13). The physical acts between those of the same sex is that which God calls being "against nature" (Romans 1:26-27). We suggest that a person would need help to misunderstand these passages. Under the Law of Moses, you need to note that God of heaven, sympathetic to all sickness and affliction in man, still decreed death for those practicing homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13). **WHY? Because it was SIN!** God condemns homosexually.

What of Sodom and Gomorrah? "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 7). "Fornication" here "implies excessive indulgence" or "to commit much fornication." "Strange" flesh here means "out of the order of nature," "contrary to nature," "that which was unnatural," "a departure from the law of

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nature.” One version reads, “And don’t forget the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, all full of lust of every kind, including lust of men for other men ...” Men seeking after men and women after women is “strange flesh” which God has not commanded. It is sin. It is condemn by God!

I wonder how long it will be, since you cannot condemn homosexuality without being labeled as unloving or prejudiced; will it be until one is labeled as being judgmental when one condemns drunkenness, adultery, fornication, stealing or lying? Oh, I believe we’re in this vicinity. Just teach what makes people feel good about themselves, saying nothing is wrong. “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for*

“The Word ‘Trinity’ & The Holy Spirit” By Jarrod Jacobs

I received a letter from a man who asked me about the word “trinity” and about the Holy Spirit. I thought that this might be of interest to you dear reader, in your study of the Bible; so I have included his letter as well as mine below. Except for a few unrelated comments, these letters are presented in their entirety.

His letter to me:

“I have always believed in the Trinity. My father who I greatly respect has come to believe that this is false doctrine designed by man to explain christian "multi-God" teaching. He was approached by a muslim and challenged that Islam is the only true "one-God" religion and that Christianity has three Gods. The bible calls Jesus God. The bible calls God, God but only calls the Holy Spirit the breath of God, hand of God, spirit of God. It appears to me that the Holy Spirit is an instrument that God uses not necessarily a God. If this is true then the Trinity is really a "Binity" if you will. In conducting computer aided bible searches I find no reference to Trinity although I thought for sure that there was one. Help!!!! Is the Trinity just a man made doctrine? Can we prove Biblically that this doctrine is divine or is this something we just have come to accept? Thank you for you time and efforts in this matter.”

My response:

Dear ,

The word “trinity” is not a word that will be found in the Bible. However, this does not mean it is a man-made doctrine. The Bible discusses the fact that there are three in

bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20).

Oh, Jimmy you hate homosexuals. No, I hate the sin! But I get the feeling that people hate people who feel the way God feels about homosexuality being sin! “*O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of Jehovah” (Jeremiah 22:29).* God forgives sins. But for forgiveness, there must be repentance (**Luke 13:3**). Some Christians in Corinth were former homosexuals, Paul says they were forgiven, they had obeyed the gospel (**1 Corinthians 6:9 ff**).

Yes, we ought to be homophobic! Yes, we ought to be “phobic” of all sinful conduct! Should we confront sin, or just leave it alone? Should we allow people to stay in the wrong? Or help lead them in the right way? “*We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).* ♦

the Godhead; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. That there is a plurality in the Godhead is seen in the very beginning of the Bible. In Genesis 1, God said, “*Let US make man in OUR image after OUR likeness...*” (Gen. 1:26). This makes it clear that there is more than one in the Godhead. For further evidence, you can look to Daniel. There, we read about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being cast into the fiery furnace. Once inside, the people saw not three, but four figures in there; the fourth being “*like the Son of God*” (Dan. 3:25). In Daniel 7:13, Daniel, in the “*night visions*” saw the “*Son of Man*” come to “*the Ancient of Days.*” The “*Ancient of Days*” is God the Father.

Further evidence of a plurality in the Godhead is seen in the New Testament. Read John 3:16 and you’ll read about the Father and the Son. The sender cannot be that which is sent, can he?? As I write this letter to you and send it off, am I the letter? No, of course, not! I and the letter are separate things just as God the Father and God the Son are separate personalities.

To see that there are three in the Godhead, consider the fact that Jesus said that baptism is to be done by the authority of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19). In Matthew 3:16-17, after Jesus’ baptism, we have Jesus in the water, the Holy Spirit like a dove descending upon Him, and a voice from Heaven saying, “*this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*” There are three in the Godhead!! A parallel account is found in Luke 3:21-22. If

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Corinthians 13:14 discusses the “*grace of the Lord Jesus Christ ... the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost.*” Once again, three are mentioned. I can provide you with more scripture references if they are necessary.

I’d like to discuss your statement: “The bible calls Jesus God. The bible calls God, God but only calls the Holy Spirit the breath of God, hand of God, spirit of God. It appears to me that the Holy Spirit is an instrument that God uses not necessarily a God.” Truly, the Bible talks about the hand, breath, etc. of God, but when we are talking about the Holy Spirit, we are discussing a separate personality in the Godhead, and not merely an instrument as you said. Let me show you this. In Acts 5, we read about Ananias and Sapphira and how they lied about how much money they had “*laid at the apostles’ feet*” (Acts 5:2). Please read Acts 5:3-4: “*But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the HOLY GHOST, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast NOT lied unto men, BUT UNTO GOD.*” Here in this passage, we see that the Holy Spirit is God! When Ananias lied to the Holy Ghost, he lied to God; and when he lied to God he lied to the Holy Ghost. Please understand, the Holy Spirit is not an influence, or an instrument, but a personality. Christ described him as “he,” NOT “it” (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-14). You can go through those passages and underline each time the masculine personal pronoun “he” is used – NOT “it” as would be used if you were talking about an instrument of God.

As further evidence, consider these facts: 1) The Holy

GOD HAS A RIGHT Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life
 - He has the power to take all of it. ♦

Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4). 2) The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Eph. 4:30). 3) The Holy Spirit can be vexed (Isa. 63:10). 4) The Holy Spirit revealed things (Luke 2:26; II Peter 1:20-21; Acts 1:16, 21:11, 28:25-27; I Cor. 2:13; Heb. 3:7-8 – Ps. 95:7-11). 5) The Holy Spirit gave commandments to the apostles (Acts 1:2). 6) The Holy Spirit was a witness to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Acts 5:33). 7) The Holy Spirit can be resisted (Acts 7:51). 8) Paul and Barnabas were sent on their first journey by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:4). 9) There were some things that “seemed good” to the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28). 10) At one point, the Holy Spirit forbid Paul and the others to go to Asia (Acts 16:6). Now, are these the attributes of an instrument, or of a person?? Answer this question, and your problem is solved!

So, there is no reference to the word “trinity” in the Bible, but there are clearly three personalities in the Godhead. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Read Ephesians 4:4-6, and you’ll read about “*One Spirit*” (v. 4), “*One Lord*” (v. 5), and “*One God and Father of All*” (v. 6). I’m no mathematician, but I do know that 1+1+1=3!! Remember, “*no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost*” (I Cor. 12:3).

I hope my words have been of help to you, and that they will encourage you in fighting the good fight of faith (I Tim. 6:12). If I can be of help to you in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Jarrod Jacobs

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦