

**Articles and Sermons :: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us****Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/12 12:52**

by Roger R. Nicole

Introduction

It seems strange that one should desire to speak at all about Polemic Theology since we are now in an age when folks are more interested in ecumenism and irenics than in polemics. Furthermore, Polemic Theology appears to have been often rather ineffective. Christians have not managed in many cases to win over their opponents. They have shown themselves to be ornery; they have bypassed some fairly important prescriptions of Scripture; and in the end, they have not convinced very many people--sometimes not even themselves! Under these circumstances one perhaps might desire to bypass a subject like this altogether.

We are called upon by the Lord to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). That does not necessarily involve being contentious; but it involves avoiding compromise, standing forth for what we believe, standing forth for the truth of God--without welching at any particular moment. Thus we are bound to meet, at various points and on various levels, people with whom we disagree. We disagree in some areas of Christian doctrine. We disagree as to some details of church administration. We disagree as to the way in which certain tasks of the church should be pursued.

If we are careful to observe the principles that I would like to expound in this article, we may find that they are valuable not only in the religious field but also in the realms of politics, business and family. Who does not encounter from time to time people who are not in complete agreement? Whether it is between husbands and wives, parents and children, co-workers on the job or fellow members in the church, it is impossible to live without disagreement. Therefore it is good to seek to discover certain basic principles whereby we may relate to those who differ from us.

There are three major questions that we must ask; and I would like to emphasize very strongly that, in my judgment, we need to ask them precisely in the right order:

- (1) What do I owe the person who differs from me?
- (2) What can I learn from the person who differs from me?
- (3) How can I cope with the person who differs from me?

more here: (<http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/FJ33/article3.html>) Polemic Theology: How to deal with those who differ from us

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/12 12:58

Wow i have arrived !! finally a home! An actual thread where i am welcome!!
Where do we start???

Lets throw out some possibilities;

raising the dead

Laughing revival

Brownsville revival

Intimate worship

Any takers?

David

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2008/3/12 13:03

Quote:

-----Laughing revival

that's probably the one i would disagree with you on, but hey 3 outta 4 ain't bad huh?? :-)

phil

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/12 13:21

Quote:

-----Wow i have arrived !! finally a home! An actual thread where i am welcome!!

Looking forward to your contributions, David!

Just curious, have you read the entire article? To me, it would seem that by the time one gets to the end of it, one's zeal may be a tad bit tempered. :-o

Diane

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/12 14:44

Quote:

-----There are three major questions that we must ask; and I would like to emphasize very strongly that, in my judgment, we need to ask them precisely in the right order:

- (1) What do I owe the person who differs from me?
- (2) What can I learn from the person who differs from me?
- (3) How can I cope with the person who differs from me?

1 Thessalonians 2

1For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

2But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

When it comes to the Gospel, as there is only ONE Gospel.....I would say...count it all Joy when you are reviled, hated, h
eckled for contending for it.

To Contend for the faith means the Gospel.

What ****other faith**** ;-) could anyone be referring to?

What do I owe the person who differs from me?

The Truth, the Whole Truth and nothing but the Truth...so help me God!

And if you don't receive any contention...:-? Something is very very wrong.

But our new *Humanism approach to peaching the Gospel is to check in with self first, apply worldly principles of psycho

-babbel, and when you have the world eating out of your hand...you are on your way to becoming the next Movie Star Christian!!!

Katy

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/12 15:25

If we have unbiased hunger for truth combined with insatiable appetite for the presence of God.

This makes for interesting "discussion" of heavenly things.

Our ability to step outside the box is our ability to see our destiny fulfilled

David

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/12 18:24

Quote:

-----Our ability to step outside the box is our ability to see our destiny fulfilled

Not if the "box" in question is sound doctrine.

Quote:

-----Lets throw out some possibilities;

Raising the dead, laughing revivals? Friend, I agree we should throw these out. Why bring them into play here, why even make an issue of Brownsville when you know the disputes, the strife and confusion and divisions such topics will cause in the forum? Why don't we instead discuss love and patience and righteousness and humility and what God is really desiring to be exhibited in His children? Raising the dead is nothing, laughing like a fool is nothing, being thrown down to the ground is nothing...it's even *worse* than foolishness if we have not the fruit of the Spirit and all we want is to use these phenomena to generate debates.

I tell you, there are some here who are growing weary of controversial topics being brought up merely for the sake of controversy.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/12 19:51

Outside the box, meaning the religious box.
meaning legalism,
meaning if I don't think like the consensus I must be wrong.

I suppose the Anna baptist chose their religion just to be contentious?

You can't show me a single patriarch that thought "inside the box"

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/12 19:59

I really cant see how a revival where thousands are saved and set free.....How can such a thing not cause controversy?

How in the world are you going to have any move of God that is not going to separate and offend many.

Just salvation in itself causes sever fracture and division.

The apostles were commanded not to speak of their king

I will answer as they "how can I not speak of the things I saw and experienced"

David

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/12 20:08

Paul West , maybe you should stop and think before you correct.

Remember ,this is a revival website.the Brownsville revival was one of the mightiest revivals the U.S.A. has seen

I'm Glad to hear you know my thoughts and intentions better than I do.

And i do see yours.

you say raising the dead is nothing?

You say people being slain in the spirit by the power of the Holy Spirit is nothing?

What else does the Holy Spirit do that offends you?

David

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/12 20:19

Quote:

-----I suppose the Anna baptist chose their religion just to be contentious?

The Anabaptists did not have a perverse obsession with signs and wonders and outward manifestations like laughing and tongues and falling down and whatever else. Have you read their London Confession of Faith of 1646? It's the most sober, biblically-sound collection of statements I've ever read. This was the Anabaptist charter and you never once get the impression they were thinking "outside the box" unless you took into account their tenet concerning infant baptism.

The "box" you mention, the true box is a holy life in Christ Jesus, a humble, charitable life of prayer and meditation, of growing in all knowledge and wisdom and grace in God's ways. We ought to never leave this "box"; it is the others who are outside and need to come into a proper, wholesome standing in Christ. Charismania only runs surface-deep, and anyone who takes up the challenge to walk soberly in Christ is soon called beyond the gold dust and laughing.

Most believers have never even surrendered their life to God or read their Bible from cover to cover or wept over the lost...and yet these same want to go into funeral homes and raise the dead. This is akin to a four-year old fastening a blue beach towel around his neck and pretending he can fly like Superman; the desire is there, but the power to actually fly isn't.

The deeper your knowledge grows in the ways of God, the less alluring the hunt for signs and wonders become. The sign you seek rather becomes the daily inner working of Christ in your spirit, the wonder becomes the testimony of that pro

guess actually being worked out! The most wonderful miracle you can behold is the unseen one God secretly works within as you become fashioned more and more into the image of Christ.

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/12 20:55

Quote:

roadsign wrote:

more here: (<http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/FJ33/article3.html>) Polemic Theology: How to deal with those who differ from us

I went over the entire article today and found it very, very good. Really, everyone here on SI that takes place in active discussions **should** read this article and at the very *least* pray about incorporating some of these principles into the discussions that take place here on SI. I feel like I have a *long* ways to go in learning how to properly deal with those who differ with me, but this article has helped me to see where my weak points are and what I need to work on.

Thank you, Diane, for sharing this! I'm so glad you did! :-D

~Joy

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/12 21:02

Paul West, your insults and belittling.....I hope you are doing that for yourself because those things don't impress me.

Too bad you see the working and power of the Holy Spirit with such disdain.

do you also see Elisha catching the mantle of Elijah as a cheap superman trick?

the 5 wise virgins were wise due to the fullness of their lamps.

the oil is a type of the Holy Spirit.

But why would someone forbid or belittle anyone seeking oil?

David

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/12 21:06

Quote:

-----Paul West, your insults and belittling

Friend, how have I insulted and belittled you?

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/12 21:09

Hi Paul,

I've been thinking about your definition of the box, and I think yours is more like the Ark. The people in the Ark were alive (still\already), because of faith.

I think they were the ones who gladly thought outside the 'box' of David's reflection, in which the people who need *reviva* / need to be willing to leave their carnal thinking (mindset\box), and get into God's thinking\mindset.

Although I've never heard the point made within the context of *revival*, that the 'religious' may be 'offended', I've certainly heard it preached here at home in the context of evangelism. Reading from John 15, the evangelist said 'If we love one another as it says here, and go out and preach the gospel, *knives will be out for us*'. He was referring to malicious opposition from other local *Christian* groups.

To be honest, although I was shocked, I was also encouraged to believe God.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/12 21:14

Quote:
-----I've been thinking about your definition of the box, and I think yours is more like the Ark. The people in the Ark were alive (still\alread
dy), because of faith.

No, I am not talking about faith. I am talking about the mind of Christ and living in a right relationship with God, free from any polluting doctrine or the need to engage in disputatious topics for the sole sake of polemics.

This was the original premise of our discussion, but I do understand your point.

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2008/3/12 22:02

Quote:
-----The deeper your knowledge grows in the ways of God, the less alluring the hunt for signs and wonders become. The sign you seek
rather becomes the daily inner working of Christ in your spirit, the wonder becomes the testimony of that progress actually being worked out! **The most
wonderful miracle you can behold is the unseen one God secretly works within as you become fashioned more and more into the image of
Christ.**

Very reassured to read this bit indeed!! perceive this as one's truly "...growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ..." Also, Christians must not neglect the importance to read/study the entire Bible from cover to cover life-long. Without the diligence in learning The Living Word through the entirety of The Written Word daily, one could easily be misled, by all/any sorts of "signs and wonders". Satan can produce signs and miracles, distort the Word of God, but only God the Spirit can work miracles in the spirits of those who are the called and who love Him.

Thanks, mamaluk

Re: Here's a great example - and that's no laughing matter - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/13 8:22

What is:

Quote:
----- seeking oil

to one of one brother is:

Quote:
----- polluting doctrine

to another brother.

What a perfect opportunity to apply the principles put forth in the article, "Polemic Theology"!

Looking forward to real-live application in the future brothers David and Paul! You are both precious in his sight, and without a doubt have something valuable to teach us all regarding the process of dealing with polemic issues. I trust that you will find the article most helpful.

May the Spirit enable and bless you.

Diane

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 9:15

1 Corinthians 1:30

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us WISDOM from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption

Proverbs 8

1Doth not **wisdom** cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

2She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

3She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

4Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

5O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

6Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

7For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

9They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

10Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

12I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

14Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

15By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

16By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

Katy

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 9:27

Quote:

psalm1 wrote:

Paul West, your insults and belittling.....I hope you are doing that for yourself because those things dont impress me.

Too bad you see the working and power of the Holy Spirit with such disdain.

do you also see Elisha catching the mantle of Elijah as a cheap superman trick?

the 5 wise virgins were wise due to the fullness of their lamps.

the oil is a type of the Holy Spirit.

But why would someone forbid or belittle anyone seeking oil?

David

Hi David

Quote:

-----Too bad you see the working and power of the Holy Spirit with such disdain.

I'm pretty sure Paul said on one thread that he was Pentecostal or Charismatic, in which case that can't be true.

Is that so, Paul?

In any case, there is no question whatever here, of treating the workings of the Spirit with distain, but there *is* disagreement on whether certain things *are* the workings of the Holy Spirit or not.

Quote:

-----the 5 wise virgins were wise due to the fullness of their lamps.

No, they were wise because they also had spare oil with then in a vessel. This was *in case the night of watching and waiting for the Bridegroom proved too long for their lamps to last out.*

As indeed happened. They made it to the Feast because they had not only oil, (as you say, representing the Holy Spirit) , but a store for the dark days and nights of waiting that came before his return to claim his bride.

That's what we will need in the times that are ahead.

And we have to be sure that the oil is unmixed with anything else.

We all know what happens if the fuel we put in our cars is contaminated.

This I think is Paul's concern, not to reject all the workings of the Spirit, but to recognise the conterfeit "bad oil" that could dim our lamps permanently.

in Him

Jeannette

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/13 10:02

Quote:

-----Is that so, Paul?

Absolutely. Up until this year I was a certified minister with the Assemblies of God, and I only recently broke away from my Pentecostal heritage due to my belief that tongues *are not* the sole initial evidence of Spirit Baptism. In fact, I believe tongues do not have to be present at all, if the Holy Spirit sovereignly designs not to give them, and in other cases tongues may very well be the initial evidence.

But as for miracles and other outward manifestations (such as raising the dead and gifts of knowledge and healing), I believe and have seen God at work many times in the supernatural through my own ministry and the ministry of others. David seems to be leaping to emotional assumptions, but Jeanette, you have understood the intent of my post.

I would never forbid someone from seeking "oil" (the oil reserve they seek is found each morning in *quiet time* with God and in His Word), though I would certainly deter the panning of fool's gold in a sewage run-off. I'm sorry if these are blunt words and they offend some people, but this is how strongly I am opposed to the foolishness we see masquerading as "Holy Ghost" in certain circles. Brownsville had some great moments, but not all of it was great, and I'm not one to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

All the same, let us move on to greater things. I could tell you of the wonders of God, great miracles of divine healing I've seen with my own two eyes, great manifestations of His power on the streets when we would open-air preach. But I have learnt to move on and not major on miracles. I don't dwell on them, and I won't discuss them here because the temptation is too great to steal the glory for myself. I will only talk about the unseen workings of Christ within my spirit - the things that really matter - the fruit, the beauty of holiness and a clean walk before God; but I will continue to warn against charismatic superficiality, and do all I can to prevent debates on such and vain jangling from prevailing here.

Think of me as just a loving brother trying to exhort others to "say in the center of the road", and not veer too much to the left or right.

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 11:19

Ephesians 4

1I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

17This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20But ye have not so learned Christ;

21If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27Neither give place to the devil.

28Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you

Re: - posted by broclint (), on: 2008/3/13 12:14

Excellent scripture Sister Katy... posted on another thread last night the scripture from Galatians 5:13 - 15 (NKJV) 13For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 15But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Appropriate to this thread and many others.

I can appreciate very much Brother Paul's remarks (coming from a similar background in the Church of God) regarding the direction of what was once a dynamic movement of God which started first and foremost as a hungering and thirsting for personal holiness and total surrender to God, but along the way instead of seeking the person of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the Holy Spirit which Jesus Christ Himself said is to glorify Christ, exalt His Words, expose sin, exalt righteousness, lead into all TRUTH... the gifts and the person of the Holy Spirit is exalted above Jesus Christ and the signs and wonders that were used to demonstrate the Lord's authority to forgive sin has been emphasized almost to the exclusion of those repeated commands to take up the cross, and self-denial, and to have a servant's heart (exemplified in His washing the disciple's feet) and those clear declarations regarding not only the fruits of the Spirit, but also those fruits the Lord talked about in the Sermon on the Mount that distinguish the true from the false prophet.

Too many thorns and thistles trying to say there are figs in here somewhere.

Clint

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/13 12:30

Quote:
-----what was once a dynamic movement of God which started first and foremost as a hungering and thirsting for personal holiness and total surrender to God, but along the way instead of seeking the person of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the Holy Spirit which Jesus Christ Himself said is to glorify Christ, exalt His Words, expose sin, exalt righteousness, lead into all TRUTH... the gifts and the person of the Holy Spirit is exalted above Jesus Christ and the signs and wonders that were used to demonstrate the Lord's authority to forgive sin has been emphasized almost to the exclusion of those repeated commands to take up the cross, and self-denial, and to have a servant's heart

Amen. The mainline Pentecostal movement, for the most part, has become exactly this. Tongues and prophetic utterances are manifest in almost everyone of our services (I still attend an AG church) but the abiding *fruit* to follow is scarce. There's lots of emotion and yelling and stomping and prophecy, but when all the smoke clears, you still don't see a tender humility and a love for the lost and a thirst for the righteousness of Christ in personal holiness. Observing this over the years has really left a bad taste in my mouth when I hear of "gifts" in Pentecostal circles.

People want to see the dead raised, yet they have no desire to raise themselves out of bed in the mornings to pray and seek God in the Word. Do you know the only death we should be concerned with seeing reversed and resurrected? Our lives of personal devotion at the feet of Jesus Christ. If we fail to raise ourselves up to effectively meet God in quiet time, we miss the mark for the entire day, and we end up as nothing more than zealous children with bobby-pins and painted beach towels pretending to be Supermen.

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/13 12:38

Quote:

roadsign wrote:
Who does not encounter from time to time people who are not in complete agreement?

2 Timothy 2:23-25

23But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Psalm 35:1

Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Isaiah 41:11

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

Matthew 12:19

He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/13 13:02

Quote:
-----We are called upon by the Lord to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). That does not necessarily involve being contentious; but it involves avoiding compromise, standing forth for what we believe, standing forth for the truth of God--without wincing at any particular moment.

This struck me forcibly, as I have recently been very sorely tempted to compromise on Truth, or at least go over-softly, for the sake of peace. Especially because a person promoting error seemed to want to make peace, and even apologise for sharp words spoken previously.

I drafted a warm, accepting, "lets be friends" sort of reply, but the Lord wouldn't let me send it.

In the end He enabled me to send a (hopefully) gracious response, but one that still made it absolutely clear that there was to be *no compromise whatsoever* in the area of Truth.

For one like myself, who had a real phobia of any kind of conflict or unpleasantness, this was a big victory!

Among other things, the Lord reminded me of the two good kings, Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah. Both really nice guys (if a king can be called that!), and true men of God. Yet they compromised and made leagues with their enemies, and with the enemies of their nation, and, more disastrously, with enemies of God.

Indeed, Isaiah's words to Hezekiah, after he'd received the Babylonian envoys and showed them all his treasures, seem to imply that Hezekiah's compromise with Babylon was at least in part the cause of the Babylonian captivity! And I was on the verge of opening my heart, as Hezekiah did his treasures, to an "envoy of Babylon", because I was so thrilled at the prospect of reconciliation!

There's such a fine line between contending for the faith in a right spirit and compromise, or contending wrongly.

May the Lord give us all boldness, wisdom, grace, discernment and clarity in these things!

Amen!

Jeannette

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2008/3/13 14:22

Quote:

PaulWest wrote:
The "box" you mention, the true box is a holy life in Christ Jesus, a humble, charitable life of prayer and meditation, of growing in all knowledge and wisdom and grace in God's ways. We ought to never leave this "box";

This has got to be your opinion I have never in my 40 years as a Christian heard the box explained like this. To me the Box is the "law" the law has held many Christian in bondage for thousands of years, Jesus says in John 4:24, "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

So to me getting out of the box is worshiping God in Spirit and Truth, if your only worshiping him in truth "The Word" your still inside the box, when you learn as I have many years ago to also worship him in "Spirit" then and only then you will be out of the box.

This is were many have fallen away they go to Church or come here and post "thousands" of Scriptures and forget totally about listening to the "King" the Holy Spirit "within" this is were many fall short. The Holy Spirit will minister to each of us independently through Scripture this is why the Bible is called the "living" Word there are no Scriptures that can possibly mean one thing and only one thing and many here do not understand this, some think this is "exactly" what this Scripture means "news flash" no it don't it! means whatever the Holy Spirit is ministering through that Scripture to each of us at that time, this is why I don't hardly come here anymore because you have these know it alls that don't understand how the Holy Spirit works, and know only the truth and really don't know it that well most of what they do know are opinions.

NOT ALL WORSHIP IS ACCEPTABLE...There is vain worship - Mt 15:7-9 Based on traditions of men, while ignoring the commands of God, offered without involving our "hearts" (spirits) There is ignorant worship - Ac 17:22-23, Ignorant of the true nature of God, Ignorant of the worship He desires, There is will worship - Co 2:20-23 (KJV), Self-imposed, not God-directed, What we like, what we think is good, Just because we worship God, does not mean He is pleased with our worship!

"Jesus said it is the "Spirit of truth" that teaches us all things."

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 14:33

A deception with consequences

In Joshua 9, Joshua was proceeding to conquer the land promised to Israel as God had commanded him to do. He was proceeding as directed to kill all of the inhabitants of that land. In verse 3, when some of the Amorites (one of the tribes inhabiting the land God had commanded Joshua to destroy) who lived in the city of Gibeah, and called Gibeonites, heard that Joshua was coming to destroy them, the scriptures tell us they decided to fool Joshua with trickery. They put on old clothes, took moldy bread, old wineskin, worn out shoes and covered themselves with much dust. Then they rode their camels over the hill to meet Joshua and told him that they had come from a far away land, having heard of his great army and his God who was conquering all the nations before him. They said they had come to make a treaty with Israel. Please make note of this important fact: they are lying through their teeth! In verse 14, it says that Joshua and his men looked at them and were convinced that they were telling them the truth because of their appearance and the condition of their food and garments. The bible says they "didn't even inquire of the Lord." Instead, vs. 15 says Joshua and his leaders "made a peace covenant with them."

Immediately after this, someone found out that they were not from far away as they had implied; instead, they were from just over the hill. Joshua and his men then realized they had been lied to. You would think Joshua and his men would have risen up and killed all of them for their lies, and for making them look very foolish. You would think they would have said, like many today would say, "We didn't know what we were doing. They fooled us." But vs. 18 says, "And the children of Israel smote them not because the princes of the congregation had sworn.

Now, to clarify that the Gibeonites NEVER became part of Israel, but became *servants*, to Israel not brethren. They did not inherit any land.

History will tell the end of this story.

My understanding is that the Gibeonites were always a pain in the neck to Israel, but because this covenant was made by an oath (be careful of what and who you allow in your life. If there was originally to be an exception for the Gibeonites , the Lord would have said so from the beginning...He did not!.)) and God honored that oath the princes of the congregation made

...but it came back to bite them all.

2 Samuel 21:1

Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

2 Samuel 21:2

And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

2 Samuel 21:3

Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?

2 Samuel 21:4

And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.)

They asked for Saul's 7 sons in retribution!

2 Samuel 21:9

And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

Katy

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/13 14:49

Quote:

the 5 wise virgins were wise due to the fullness of their lamps.

No, they were wise because they also had spare oil with them in a vessel. This was in case the night of watching and waiting for the Bridegroom proved too long for their lamps to last out.

As indeed happened. They made it to the Feast because they had not only oil, (as you say, representing the Holy Spirit), but a store for the dark days and nights of waiting that came before his return to claim his bride.

OK I say oil is a type of the Holy Spirit and you say No.

Then you say it is a type but not like you say it?

Maybe this will help us not to add to the parable to protect doctrine:

the oil is a type of the Holy Spirit Period.

The wise were wise because they had oil.

How do we know this?

well, read the parable.....The foolish were foolish because they had NO oil period.

None of the parables are complex they are super simple.

There is no possible way to add polluted oil into the parable.

That would qualify as oxymoronic.(polluted Holy Spirit)

This is extremely religious turf,placing doing the works of Jesus in the light of cheap tricks and seeking oil as polluted oil.

Look at scripture ! History repeats itselfthey accused Jesus of having polluted oil."he casts out Satan by the power of satan"

"he healed the sick on the sabbath! Everyone knows he cant be of God. No real man of God would break Gods law like that"

So we have it today....to be outside the box like Jesus incurs the ire of the religious establishment.

David

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/13 15:05

Hi Paul,

(I began writing this some hours ago, and have been distracted, during which time the conversation has moved on; however I think I shall complete and post what I had prepared, by way of expanding our communication generally.)

I think we were saying the same thing, and I'd like to share with you how I come to that conclusion, because perhaps it will help us get to know each other a bit more, and only for that reason. Ahead of this short explanation though, let me explain something you would never guess unless I share it unsolicited. When I was in that church I refer to as cultish, I was under constant attack by the leader for my use of English in terms such as 'swallowed a dictionary again', and, (in some ways this next point is more important), when I attributed to the Lord what He was doing for me, I was told it could n't have been God, or, everyone (else) knows that (aspect of truth already, except you (me), of course), and, various terms of reference were banned (for me personally), even if I heard others using them (including the accuser) *all the time*. This had the desired effect on me, namely to *not* give God the glory, and to *not* mention Jesus Christ if it could be avoided.

Now..... baring oneself to the world on a Christian website (SI), and not knowing who is going to fall like a ton of bricks from on cyberhigh on some phrase one uses accidentally triggering an adverse spiritual reaction from others, I have developed a very passive way of expressing my thoughts, including the use of biblical metaphor without very much explanation (in this case 'Ark'). People will either get it or they won't. I could not number the excellent and spiritual sermons I heard in 3D, while having no personal comprehension of what was *really* being said. So, it doesn't bother me that not everyone understands everything I say, and, I enjoy being challenged by what I hear from others, which *I* don't understand.

But, I do depend on the Spirit to connect me to people. This is the bond of unity which we are to endeavour to maintain. As long as that is being nurtured, the matter of teasing out what was in a person's heart when they chose the words they used to try to convey it, is just one of the extenuations of using a keyboard. I remind myself that a short post from anyone who doesn't touch-type, may have taken quite a long time to write, and its content has been shrunk to the key point they wish to contribute for others to consider.

Getting back to faith, and Ark, I'm sure I don't need to tell you the Ark is a type of Christ, and it took faith to get in; which ever way you look at the underlying truth. The comparason of boxes I realised afterwards, might better have been put in the term MikeB is fond of - the 'fallen cranium' - to represent those who are not (yet) thinking with the mind of Christ, even though they may make a religious presentation to the world.

I'm sure that in the things I've said here so far, we are barely talking about 'polemic theology'; but, let's acknowledge the process on which we all have embarked. Hearing of the dear brother from a pentecostal church childhood, who eventually settled in the Russian Orthodox church (in the UK) because it gave opportunity for the contemplative aspect of our faith, and, of your gradual migration to a more biblical creed, and, knowing my own shocking transition from forms of worship which required mostly mute participation, to ones in which I was ready to share my bread every week, it's clear *change* is a necessary manifestation of *growth*, if we are to become the people God wants us to be.

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us - posted by psalm1, on: 2008/3/13 15:10

this is a quote from the article:

"Similarly, in dealing with those who differ, we ought not to split hairs about language just in order to pounce on our opponent because he or she has not used accurate wording. It is more effective to seek to apprehend what is meant and then to relate ourselves to the person's meaning. If we don't do that, of course, there is no encounter because this person speaks at one level and we are taking the language at another level. The two do not meet and the result is bound to be frustrating. If we really want to meet, we might as well try to figure out the meaning rather than to quibble on wording.

Moreover, I would suggest that we owe to people who differ from us to seek to understand their aims. What is it that they are looking for? What is it that makes them tick? What is it that they are recoiling against? What are the experiences, perhaps tragic experiences, that have steeled them into a particular stance? What are the things that they fear and the things that they yearn for? Is there not something that I fear as well or yearn for in the same way? Is there not a possibility here to find a point of contact at the very start rather than to move on with an entirely defensive or hostile mood?"

Oh I get it....all this is like one of those hidden camera deals where everyone is in on it but me.

David

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 15:25

Quote:
-----In verse 3, when some of the Amorites (one of the tribes inhabiting the land God had commanded Joshua to destroy) who lived in the city of Gibeah, and called Gibeonites, heard that Joshua was coming to destroy them, the scriptures tell us they decided to fool Joshua with trickery. They put on old clothes, took moldy bread, old wineskin, worn out shoes and covered themselves with much dust. Then they rode their camels over the hill to meet Joshua and told him that they had come from a far away land, having heard of his great army and his God who was conquering all the nations before him. They said they had come to make a treaty with Israel.

How would this apply to christians today seeing that we are in the new covenant and our warfare is not with flesh and blood? I believe a christian can be deceived into thinking they are being holy but are in fact self righteous for example. They have a spirit but it's not of God but they can be misled into thinking that it is God. Usually other people are the first to notice it but the one who is deceived becomes comfortable with it and can even justify it in their own mind. I see it happen all the time.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bond age.

2 Peter 2:20

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/13 15:28

Quote:
-----This has got to be your opinion I have never in my 40 years as a Christian heard the box explained like this. To me the Box is the "Law" the law has held many Christian in bondage for thousands of years, Jesus says in John 4:24, "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Hi Mr.Bill,

Okay, I see where you're coming from, as I also see where Linn is coming from. My point about the "box" was relative to the conversation I was having with David. Many times a quiet life of purity, humility and sobriety in doctrine is thought of negatively as the "box" - especially in the more charismatic circles. There is a thing going around that if you are not radically raising the dead or subscribing to Brownsvillish signs and hysteria and laughing and whatever else, you have lost contact with the "oil" of the Holy Spirit, for such signs are the true indicator that the Holy Ghost is moving upon a person or congregation.

I utterly reject this notion. What I did, Mr. Bill and Linn, is invert the discussion to demonstrate that the true "box" could be a quiet life in Christ, in all balance and proportion to scripture, and I'm showing that being "in the box" in this respect may not be a bad thing at all. The other camp purports that we must "step out of the box" if we want to "fulfill our destiny" (I have no idea what that means), but the box they are encouraging to "step out of" must be regarded as safer than the one we are told to step into, if only by virtue of the litmus test they place upon certain manifestations for "being in the Spirit".

I am simply proposing my view with a twist: from inside the very box charismatics would call me out of! I already know what is "outside the box" and I've seen enough to know how much it grievously misses the mark.

I would rather call them back *into the box* of sound doctrine where there is safety, security, growth, and an increasing knowledge of God's ways. Stepping out of the box in this regard is stepping into unsound doctrine and polluted waters.

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 15:30

David, Yes, the oil is a TYPE of the Holy Spirit...period.

And Yes I also agree what you are saying about BOX here.....

Many today speak truth by the Holy Spirit, but those in their own little BOX of self defined doctrines/denominations actually *muzzle the OZ*.

We have on other threads the issue of **Grace**VS Law. The Holy Spirit certainly doesn't anoint LAW.

The word was full of Grace and Truth.....and is called in Hebrews 10...*the Spirit of Grace*.

It was this Spirit of **Grace** that was rejected by the Pharisees, of which Jesus rebuked, stating, that sin against Him would

d be forgiven, however sin against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven.

Why, because it is by this GRACE we are Saved, and to reject Grace is to reject salvation.

Luke 2:40

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the **Grace** of God was upon him.

Yet those who are still thinking inside their own boxes are rebuking those who have jumped outside the box of Law, and Jumped into the Box of Grace + Nothing.....by faith....

Katy

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 16:12

Quote:

Psalm18 wrote:

Quote:
-----In verse 3, when some of the Amorites (one of the tribes inhabiting the land God had commanded Joshua to destroy) who lived in the city of Gibeah, and called Gibeonites, heard that Joshua was coming to destroy them, the scriptures tell us they decided to fool Joshua with trickery. They put on old clothes, took moldy bread, old wineskin, worn out shoes and covered themselves with much dust. Then they rode their camels over the hill to meet Joshua and told him that they had come from a far away land, having heard of his great army and his God who was conquering all the nations before him. They said they had come to make a treaty with Israel.

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Galatians 5:1

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Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ezekiel 14:4

4Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

According to my interpretation of this verse if a Christian has an idol in their heart and they refuse to repent God will allow them for a time at least to believe that what they have in their heart is from God. Of course in time they will get sick of their idol and realize it is not of God and hopefully give it up.

You can only plead with someone for so long and then the Lord has to chasten them.

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/13 16:16

Now, to enter the discussion a little more deeply on the matter of religiosity, there must be many of us who were desperate to experience God in a deeper way, who either brought a church-going background to our apparent Christian testimony, or who quickly acquired one so that we didn't lose the approval of those with whom we attempted to have fellowship. Yet, amongst that group of outwardly Christian witnesses (by the church-going and the attendance at church activities), there are those who are not in the least interested in knowing God for themselves if they can wield power within the organisation. It's not until there's a bit of heat, though, that the true hearts begin to show.

Quote:

-----Observing this over the years has really left a bad taste in my mouth when I hear of "gifts" in Pentecostal circles.

Quote:

-----but I will continue to warn against charismatic superficiality, and do all I can to prevent debates on such and vain jangling from prevailing here.

broclint said

Quote:

-----I can appreciate very much Brother Paul's remarks (coming from a similar background in the Church of God) regarding the direction of what was once a dynamic movement of God which started first and foremost as a hungering and thirsting for personal holiness and total surrender to God, but ... has been emphasized almost to the exclusion of those repeated commands to take up the cross, and self-denial, and to have a servant's heart

Quote:

-----Think of me as just a loving brother trying to exhort others to "say in the center of the road", and not veer too much to the left or right.

Paul, I now understand because you are a preacher, you are comfortable in a declamatory stance. For other reasons, I am also. But please remember that *everyone* who posts, is *forced* to assume a declamatory stance, however *reluctantly*. Or, they include self-defensive comments in advance. Some people would much rather you were able to observe their Christianity in action, hear them at the prayer meeting, or receive a cold drink from them on a hot day, than have to wear their heart on their sleeve out here.

Have you ever had a PM from someone who said something like this... *I want to let you know what I think about your post in such and such a thread, privately, in case you think I'm stupid, because if I post in the thread, everyone will know I am...*? Well, it's been a while, but I have, and recently I've been thinking about all the great brethren and sisters who came here once or twice, and posted pure truth, full of faith and encouragement, and then vanished again. *Where are you all?*

It was on my mind to share with you that in my experience of 'the charismatic movement' in the UK, there is, yes, a variety, and I don't go along with everything. But, God seems to put up with a lot, seeing He sees everyone's true hearts.

The cross, Romans 6, new birth and being a new creation was at the very centre of the theology which I mostly sat under in house-churches. 'Gifts' were deemed to be the natural outworking of a life surrendered to God, in obedience to Christ as Lord and filled with the Spirit. But, even when my life did not look like that, God still sought to encourage me with the power of His Spirit to work in me, to bring down the strongholds and exalt Christ as King over me, and to use me in the lives of others.

I believe the body here will never develop beyond a large amorphous bundle, if we keep on crushing every move towards differentiation (of member parts), made by the Spirit. A mature body has clear parts, joined in function through the Head. True, some parts are joined to and dependant one upon another (such as the forearm supplies power to the wrist), but, there is clear division (for instance, between the hands and the feet), which enables the body to deliver that for which it was created. We need to trust the Lord and not *fear* the effect of allowing others to mature in *their* calling, even if we *think* have outgrown that stage (*always a risky conclusion, in my view*).

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/13 16:17

This is a continuation of my previous post, just in case anyone wonders. MrBillPro you explain that stuff about the Holy Spirit opening scripture to our understanding like no-one else I know. Amen!

psalm1 said

Quote:

-----There is no possible way to add polluted oil into the parable.

Look at scripture ! History repeats itselfthey accused Jesus of having polluted oil."he casts out Satan by the power of satan"

"he healed the sick on the sabbath! Everyone knows he cant be of God. No real man of God would break Gods law like that"

So we have it today....to be outside the box like Jesus incurs the ire of the religious establishment.

Could I ask for leniency for those who might not be 'fathers' yet?

1 John 2 (3 - 14)

20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

26 These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

I want also to say in the passing, that however far from sound manifestation of the Holy Spirit people claiming to be charismatic have drifted or been dragged by false shepherds, the word 'charisma' is scriptural; the 'charismata' (as you know), being *the graces* bestowed by the Spirit, and I would want here in SI, the word 'charismatic' to be given its original meaning, when arising in our discussions, just as we would want to re-instate the biblical definition of *faith*, where it has been hijacked by the Word of Faith movement.

I'm pretty easy going now, having been quite the opposite during the days when I was trying to pull my life into some sort of order, and will-power was very much required to get anything done at all, but it bothers me greatly when genuine questions about biblical ministry are sidelined by those to whom they are not especially relevant because different callings and opportunities rest on their lives.

I realise that in posting all this, I may be a long way behind where the conversation has got to. Thanks for your patience, everyone.

EDIT: Thanks, Paul, for the acknowledgement. I don't know how anyone reading could possibly have guessed the 'where' you are coming from, *before* you posted the explanations of your reasons for using the language you chose. I have been taught to reason as the others have put forward, using scriptural language as the common denominator. Normally, thinking 'outside the box' is leaving the confines of received natural wisdom or training. I do completely see your resistance to any interpretation which in meaning seeks to draw men away from sound doctrine and rest in Christ.

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 16:24

Quote:
-----How would this apply to christians today seeing that we are in the new covenant and our warfare is not with flesh and blood?

It applies very much to Christians today!

Leaven, we are warned by Jesus ..***beware of the leaven of the Pharisees***

Again by Paul....

God does not work through the flesh, as the law was for the flesh...pointing to SIN, and our schoolmaster as well.

Yet so many want to legalize GRACE, or co-mingle the two. You are correct, it is spiritual warfare when these two completely different doctrines are at war, just as was in Jesus time.

Legalism is one of the greatest enemies to the Church today...

Beware!

1 Corinthians 5:6

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth(RUINS) the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:7

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1 Corinthians 5:8

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Galatians 5:9

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Katy

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 16:41

Quote:

Katy-did wrote:
Quote:
-----How would this apply to christians today seeing that we are in the new covenant and our warfare is not with flesh and blood?

It applies very much to Christians today!

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Again by Paul...

God does not work through the flesh, as the law was for the flesh...pointing to SIN, and our schoolmaster as well.

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Galatians 5:9

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Katy

Amen, I agree I just wanted to get your view on it.

Re: - posted by broclint (), on: 2008/3/13 16:41

My apologies Sister Diane for my "contribution" to this thread...

the full article makes some very good points...

Clint

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/13 16:47

Quote:

-----We need to trust the Lord and not fear the effect of allowing others to mature in their calling, even if we think have outgrown that stage (always a risky conclusion, in my view).

To forbid maturity in anyone's calling is not my point here, and I don't believe there is danger of it. Laughing revivals, Brownsville, and raising the dead were thrown out in the beginning of this thread *as if they were game to prove the content of the article posted*. And there were things that followed that were unclear, bad hermeneutics offered, and by the grace of God I am able to provide an alternative to which I am persuaded is the more effective and wise way in the paths of godliness. Please, let's not bring up psychology, as I've noticed each time I engage in a discussion hinging on a disagreement with someone here you invariably join in to make a case against what I am doing. Please, if I am offering advice that is untrue, or true advice but with callous spirit behind it, please do point this out.

I am human just like everyone else here, my expressions are not always right on, and, admittedly, I can be detrimentally blunt. These are my shortcomings, though I try to cloak them under a carefully-chosen writing tenor when posting replies. Sometimes I'm not very successful at it!

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/13 16:53

Quote:
-----My apologies Sister Diane for my "contribution" to this thread...

Good idea, brother. My apologies also go out to Diane. What happened here wasn't my intention, sister. I think this is my cue to get out of the building while the walls are still standing.

Brother Paul

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/13 18:53

Quote:
----- My apologies Sister Diane for my "contribution" to this thread...

the full article makes some very good points...

Blessings, brother! This reminds me of a principle held by the Precepts Bible Study ministry. They suggest that those who have not prepared, should refrain from the discussion. This will spare them from exposing their obvious ignorance on the matter.

Quote:
----- I went over the entire article today and found it very, very good. Really, everyone here on SI that takes place in active discussions should read this article and at the very least pray about incorporating some of these principles into the discussions that take place here on SI.

I think this is a wonderful suggestion, Roniya. Of course we would need to do more preliminary work before posting our (knee-jerk) opinions. This article, I believe is a useful tool – and equips us with practical measures for dealing with polemic theological issues. It could spare us of so much fruitless energy and actually propel us towards deeper maturity in the Body. Perhaps the first obstacles to overcome are our desire to 1: be right and 2: tell the other person they are wrong

PS, brother Paul - don't bale out yet! Your apology accepted!

Diane

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/13 19:48

Hello again Paul,

Please don't take my contribution to this thread as if it is directed solely at you. I've been following it from the beginning; also, have been in more than one thread with David, where raising the dead has been discussed. I'm British. I've heard about revivals going off the rails, and I don't know anyone who thinks it's a good thing when they do. Honestly, as per the article, I'm trying to understand your sweeping dismissal of a command of Christ 'Raise the dead', which dismissal seems to be on the basis that certain charismatics have over-egged the proverbial pudding. The question is, (surely,) how do we know when to raise the dead, or not raise them; which begs any questions about faith in action (works)?

Quote:
-----I utterly reject this notion. What I did, Mr. Bill and Linn, is invert the discussion to demonstrate that the true "box" could be a quiet life in Christ, in all balance and proportion to scripture, and I'm showing that being "in the box" in this respect may not be a bad thing at all. The other camp purports that we must "step out of the box" if we want to "fulfill our destiny" (I have no idea what that means), but the box they are encouraging to "step out of" must be regarded as safer than the area we are told to step into, if only by virtue of the litmus test they place upon certain manifestations of

or "being in the Spirit".

I am simply proposing my view with a twist: from inside the very box charismatics would call me out of! I already know what is "outside the box" and I've seen enough to know how it much it greviously misses the mark.

I would rather call them back into the box of sound doctrine where there is safety, security, growth, and an increasing knowledge of God's ways. Stepping out of the box in this regard is stepping into unsound doctrine and polluted waters.

Okay, but you haven't at any point addressed David's concern that religionists need to step out of *their* box, into the kind of relationship with Christ which you describe. And that the most vehement opposition to the work of Christ on earth, may come from such religionists (who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof).

I do accept you don't have to address David's point, now that you've clarified what *you* meant, but, it would be interesting to hear a more detailed account of your understanding of Christ's command in respect of raising the dead, cleansing lepers, casting out demons (and so on), by way of justifying your rejection of David's comments. Would that be possible?

Quote:
-----Please, let's not bring up psychology, as I've noticed each time I engage in a discussion hinging on a disagreement with someone here you invariably join in to make a case against what I am doing.

I have, over many months, avoided most of the threads which have attempted to discuss psychology from an American bias, but in this thread, I am not aware even of *thinking* of psychology, so I'd be grateful for some elucidation of what I said which sparked your comment. (Thanks.)

By the way, I don't 'invariably join in to make a case against what doing'. I'm not even challenging you confrontationally. I'm simply reflecting back some of the meaning of what you've already said, but in a qualified way. I realise that can be annoying for anyone who writes how they would normally speak - where immediate misunderstandings are sorted out on the wing, as it were. Whereas posting is not so simple, and here, I know I don't join all the threads where you post. I pick up on some of what you say because it is extremely one-sided. Also, because I would like to communicate with you in a meaningful way, if that's possible.

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 19:57

Quote:

psalm1 wrote:
Quote:

the 5 wise virgins were wise due to the fullness of their lamps.
-----No, they were wise because they also had spare oil with them in a vessel. This was in case the night of watching and waiting for the Bridegroom proved too long for their lamps to last out.

As indeed happened. They made it to the Feast because they had not only oil, (as you say, representing the Holy Spirit), but a store for the dark days and nights of waiting that came before his return to claim his bride.

OK I say oil is a type of the Holy Spirit and you say No.

Then you say it is a type but not like you say it?

??? I don't understand what you mean, David :-? I never said that oil isn't a type of the Holy Spirit! I said that we need more "oil" (= the Spirit) than is actually contained in the "lamps" in order to last in the dark times.

I was thinking of the oil in the lamps as representing a **"temporary"**, supply of the Spirit, that one might get in lively meetings, or special seasons of blessing that we may experience.

But what happens when the blessing fades?

That is when we need an extra supply of "oil" - indeed a constant supply (see below)

Read the parable, (my emphasis):

-
- 1 ¶ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
 - 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
 - 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
 - 4 But ***the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.***
 - 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
 - 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
 - 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
 - 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.
 - 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.
 - 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
 - 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
 - 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Dear David, the Bridegroom came at "midnight". In other words, a time where there will seem to be no blessing, no revival, no sign of light; indeed as Amos says, a famine of even the word of the Lord.

Surely these "wise virgins" are spoken of in Daniel 12:3

- 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

In John's Gospel the Spirit is likened to water:

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow **rivers** of living water.

Rivers are supposed to flow *constantly*; an even stronger indication that there is need for a greater supply of the Holy Spirit that can be contained in one feeble "oil lamp".

Thus, in Ps 104:16 those who "drink constantly of the Holy Spirit are likened to trees:

The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;

And your own Psalm 1:

- 1 ¶ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3 ***And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.***

and Jeremiah 17:7-8

- 7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.
- 8 For ***he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.***

Take all these things together (other scriptures keep coming to mind but the above are probably enough!) and a picture begins to emerge - of those who are not merely filled with the Holy Spirit but who flow in a constant supply of the Spirit; even in the darkest, hardest times; those who are rooted in Him, and never depart, and whose supply therefore never runs dry.

Isn't that what you want? I do.

I'm not talking of quenching the Holy Spirit - far from it! I'm talking of "rivers of living water, a greater and constant supply that will carry us through anything we may have to face in this life!

When I used to go to conferences as a fairly young believer I lived from one conference to the next. I was dependant on the spiritual "boost" they supplied and thought it was impossible to do without them; that my faith would weaken unless regularly boosted through the ministries of godly speakers, and the blessing and "atmosphere" at such gatherings.

Returning home after a conference used to feel so flat, and the sense of blessing would pop like a soap-bubble in almost no time.

But in recent years the importance of this external source of supply has lessened, as I have gradually (with many stumbles, and days of apparent "failure" even now) begun to learn to rely on the Lord for my daily Supply of the Spirit.

This is basically what I was talking about all along.

...There is another misunderstanding that maybe needs clearing up. As you said, "polluted Holy Spirit" is an oxymoron. But that wasn't actually what I meant at all. Rather than adding to the parable of the ten virgins, I was using a parabolic illustration of my own.

Not being as good at parables as Jesus, maybe it wasn't clear enough!

As you said, the *Holy Spirit* can't be polluted, but we can. For example, if we allow "self" to intrude, rather than walking in the Spirit, or if we receive another spirit that is *not* the Holy Spirit.

The latter was Paul's concern I think, and has been my concern too, because the wilder manifestations seen in some of the movements you mentioned seem no different from the actions of someone manifesting a demon!

Love in Jesus

jeannette

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 20:11

Quote:
-----I would rather call them back into the box of sound doctrine where there is safety, security, growth, and an increasing knowledge of God's ways. Stepping out of the box in this regard is stepping into unsound doctrine and polluted waters.

I am not Charismatic, but I do have a Pentecostal background with a Pentecostal "experience". But that doesn't mean that my doctrine is bad or that I am outside the box. It simply means that along with sound doctrine we have embraced what the New Testament talks about being filled with the holy Spirit with the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Paul manifested both the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit and he set forth to the Gentile churches the things that you and I embrace inside the box of sound doctrine.

I do understand what you are saying in regards to what Charismatics have embraced, but do we negate the power of God because certain men who have crept in unawares have led many astray through their "signs and wonders"?

I know your answer would be no.

As a general rule most of the Church should live a holy and quiet life before God and man. Then there are those whom God calls for a specific purpose where they have to step outside that box because even those that are in the box don't

nderstand them.

Billy Graham wasn't always a meek and mild speaker as he is today. In his hayday, he was radical. Billy Sunday was an other loud mouth. We have no idea what Moody was all about or even Charles Spurgen. But when the fire of God is in y our bosom and you need to speak that message out, your not going to be like everyone else. But they are no different th en you or I, whether we are in the box or out of the box, we are all one in Christ Jesus our LORD. Each are where they a re at, as God has called them to be.

For me, I like to be both in the box and out of the box.

Re: - posted by destinysweet (), on: 2008/3/13 21:24

Dorcas..your thoughtful inspired contributions minister to me greatly.

Compliments,I am blessed to have access to your thoughts.

It is good to get to know all of you folks,listening as carefully as I can to what you are saying.

David,A few thoughts,dear brother, on the ten virgins..all ten virgins may have turned off their lamps or turned them dow n very low..when they went to sleep while waiting...when in possession of a lamp like this..you don't leave it burning brig htly when you don't need to ..like when you go to sleep. It wasn't till they heard the cry proclaiming the coming of the Bri degroom that they arose(got up) and trimmed their lamps..when you trim a lamp..it is part of lamp maintenance(I used to collect old style oil lamps)to trim the wick before relighting the lamp..because if it is not even or adjusted properly,it will b urn,unevenly, erratically..soiling the lamp cover so that it becomes blackened and will not allow the light of the burning fl ame to shine through clearly.It is also dangerous for the lamp to burn too hot to carry. Recently I heard the Spirit say..tho se who buy and sell the anointing will find that they will be the ones who will be sent to 'go buy from the merchants' the o il they are now lacking,missing the wedding through not being righteously prepared..just as those who were ready,havin g discerned, will simply go to meet Him when He comes..entering in.

This aforementioned going to certain types of conferences,now the popular craze, led by those(closely affiliated with) w ho advertise(their)'cutting edge' books and magazines that offer the impartation of this anointing(False)guaranteeing err and boy angels who deliver this anointing(false) to your home (Lord Have Mercy!)or charge or pay fees to register..mand atory fees to partake of the anointing(false)selling and buying their wares in the same building where they worship God, i s similar but not exactly the same to what Littlegift was saying only to find the oil ran out very soon after..reminds me of t hose who support/promote this nonsense(unwise) vs. those who are filled with oil/anointed because of a continual life in Christ at His feet in personal surrender and devotion(wise) being filled with His Holy Spirit..anointed by the Anointed One ..He is the anointing and this oil never runs out.

I am not..I repeat..am not saying that all conferences are like this. Thank God for great conferences..woe to those who c an't tell the difference.May we write their names upon our priesthood breastplates and intercede for these who have bee n snared in this fashion.

Peter and John who rebuked Simon the sorcerer who offered to pay them for this true gift..must be standing against the m in outrage and shock at what these are doing today..offering the gift of God for a mandatory price! Such willful blindne ss!

Did I make that clear enough to understand? There is much to be said about having your wick trimmed.I have taken this warning to heart myself,and like to be reminded when I am not mindful of this type of maintenance.

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 22:17

Matthew 12:20

20A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

Praise God, those who are Born of the Spirit of the Life of Christ, have been sealed until the day of redemption.

Oh Dear Saints, Remember this promise and cling to it! He will never leave you or forsake you!

Katy

Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/14 0:31

Quote:

-----If we fail to raise ourselves up to effectively meet God in quiet time, we miss the mark for the entire day

Amen. And it shows, first hand experience and enough failure would think would make better inroads yet ...

From the link;

Could I be Wrong?

The first thing that I should be prepared to learn is that I may be wrong and the other person may be right.

~~~~~

Is it I?

Liked this very much Diane and maybe it's impossible to include everything but some things that seemed overlooked. So me random thoughts;

Personal offendedness  
Humility

*Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?*

Yes indeed, why not?

The Lord, more than our example and we ... defend, not the faith as much as we might think or wish, but our stinking selves.

Quote:

-----Our reputation will be better served if we show ourselves ready to be corrected when in error, rather than if we keep obstinately to our viewpoint when the evidence shows it to be wrong. I should welcome correction. It renders a signal service to me! I should respond, "I was mistaken in this; I am glad that you straightened me out; thank you for your help." People who are unwilling to acknowledge their mistakes, by contrast, may be called stubborn and lose their credibility.  
-----

"Our reputation" ... can be tricky. Sometimes the concern or perhaps the fixation with it is telling, so much so that what follows there and is excellent and for the life of me could but pray for an avalanche of forthcoming ... *welcoming* correction and just sheer honesty with these ... 'reputable selves' of ours. Just the simple admittance of it, is this not ultimately at the very heart of revival, repentance/admittance/confession? But frankly, when it comes to reputation, who cares? That is I think we are going out of our way to be a nuisance and contentious. It definitely depends on the meaning we would pour in to that word. In the truest sense of it all, isn't it far more often 'What am I know for? What do I give off to others? How am I perceived?' ... I,I,I, me, myself ... sigh. Interesting isn't it, if we say we are not boasting we in fact are. If we say it's not about 'me' it is. Otherwise, why bring it up? Now that I think about it, some of us need to ask ourselves these too introverted questions in reverse. What am I know for indeed! Is it me? Am I making matters worse, is it necessary to interject my less than 2 cents worth into ... you name it.

This may get me in some trouble but there did seem to be a bit of ... humanism ... woven through this and it may have been completely unintentional at that.



“...we must attempt to understand what a person means.”

As Nicole points out, we can't always interpret words at face value.

I believe that the following questions are ideal for cyber-forum posters because they remind us that there are real human beings behind the posts.

“...we owe to people who differ from us to seek to understand their aims.”

What is it that they are looking for?

What is it that makes them tick?

What is it that they are recoiling against?

What are the experiences, perhaps tragic experiences, that have steeled them into a particular stance?

What are the things that they fear and the things that they yearn for?

Is there not something that I fear as well or yearn for in the same way?

Is there not a possibility here to find a point of contact at the very start rather than to move on with an entirely defensive or hostile mood?

(...)

Then my aim is to represent the view faithfully and fully without mingling the criticism with factual statements. In fact, I try to represent them so faithfully and fully that an adherent to that position might comment, "This man certainly does understand our view!" It would be a special boon if one could say, "I never heard it stated better!" Thus I have earned the right to criticize. But before I proceed to do this, it is only proper that I should have demonstrated that I have a correct understanding of the position I desire to contest.”

I covet this skill. Anybody else? Maybe one way to develop it is to take special note of the writings (and posts) of those who do possess it, and learn from their manner of communication – see how closely they comply with the content of the article “Polemic Theology...” .

Were there other points in section one that any of you found helpful?

Diane

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/14 9:36**

Quote:  
-----Honestly, as per the article, I'm trying to understand your sweeping dismissal of a command of Christ 'Raise the dead', which dismissal seems to be on the basis that certain charismatics have over-egged the proverbial pudding. The question is, (surely,) how do we know when to raise the dead, or not raise them; which begs any questions about faith in action (works)?  
-----

Hi Linn. Do we even read each other's posts before replying? I mean really *read* them? Or do we only glaze our eyes until we see a glowing incitement, and then pounce, disregarding all the material leading up to it and after it? Understand that I indict myself here as well! I am just as guilty (if not more) of this than anyone here.

All the same, there is a post on this thread, one of the first few posts, written by LittleGift (Jeanette) where she nailed the essence of what I was trying to convey. She totally understood my intent, and she was able to express it lucidly and in few words. Linn, why are we still going round and round? Normally, I don't send people to posts I didn't write to more easily understand when I am trying to express, but in this case it is meet.

It's on p.4 :-)

Much of this seems to be in confusion over raising the dead. I've never raised the dead, God hasn't called me yet to do so...but here was my original thought in this thread:

Quote:

-----Raising the dead is nothing, laughing like a fool is nothing, being thrown down to the ground is nothing...it's even worse than foolishness if we have not the fruit of the Spirit and all we want is to use these phenomena to generate debates.  
-----

As you can see, mine is not a "sweeping dismissal". This goes back to *thoroughly, carefully* reading all our posts, to avoid confusion and assuage the temptation to make assumptions.

I'll make a deal with you, Linn. I'll *promise* to more carefully and most unbiasedly read your contributions with the ultimate goal to understand your point of view, if you'll do the same to mine. Nothing cheers me more than unity and understanding and peace among the brothers and sisters.

Roadsign, you should be elated! The noble intent of this thread is coming into play!

Brother Paul

**Re: Regret - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/14 10:32**

Well, nothing like making oneself an example to further a point ...

There is a word that has been stuck lately;

Regret.

Maybe it needs its own airing elsewhere but I need to make a confession here. I regret some of the things mentioned here last night. The charge of 'humanism', took something of a derivative and made a muddle of it all. It was a poor way of stating it and a poorer extrapolation to base it upon that term. It was wrong. I regret it. Never intended to cast a pale over all this and yet ...

Also, made a muddle out of 'respect' just as well. There are some good men and women here, some pastors even that contribute here and it is a difficult thing to hear them often taken to task without ... some respect due to them. It is not the contorted 'man pleasing' or the further contorted 'God is not a respecter of persons' but ... if I may not wrench this completely out of its context;

*For he is the minister of God to thee for good ... For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing ... Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*

Honor to whom honor. And it applies even more broadly, what we owe to each other as it applies here and as this article is trying to also point out.

If it isn't evident enough, a great deal of what was spoken here and carried over in various other postings is just an expression of frustration. Frustration when this setting inevitably takes course into what has been seen time and again over these years as another season of upheaval, strife, contention, ill-will, personal attacks, back biting ... And just as bad is the attempts too often to try and right it somehow, speak to it, mitigate it, mediate ... moderate- "moderators".

It did strike me in a more profound way later on in the evening just how ... impossible this all is when it is looked at seriously. Even after five years now, that this forum has not imploded from the inside out is a miracle of God's grace. There are times when it must seem to those looking into all a bewilderment why the whole thing isn't just shut down, in fact, it has been suggested, even if just for a season of its own.

But there is a perplexity and complexity to it all. Try as we might otherwise, personal feelings get intertwined (case in point), personal .. outside knowledge of each other is often used against others, though they may know none of it, somehow we are supposed to understand these things though they are not privy to it. It is a redundant mention, to couple this with 'actions' and again, unintentionally as they may be, yet to use this as weaponry .. "What you don't know about \_\_\_\_\_" is, well precisely the point, we don't know! Nor do those who would infer such things know what may be going on back of the attempts to mitigate and somehow keep some controls of the conduct and behavior, attitude (the general trouble) of the participants of this setting. All that without being 'controlling'. It is frankly a marvel. It would be far easier to just 'ban' or remove those bringing turmoil or confusion at every turn yet ... This very article goes a long way in expressing the attempt

pts at being patient and long-suffering with each other and for good reason.

If we do not give place for time and hopefully a measure of allowance to just let things sink in we end up doing the thing I personal hate and yet go on doing anyways ... That is, 'forcing' a confession. It just doesn't work the majority of the time. I do hope that with all that is available here, all the sermons and messages, the articles and even the sharing and chiseling that goes on amongst ourselves that there is truly some ... change going on. Otherwise, we are stuck in gear and spinning our wheels. Time to change, time to ponder, time to ... consider.

Honestly, if we are going to be honest about it, it does come back full circle to the evidence of our praying, our lack of it. It's evident enough. My own folly and loquacity is evidence enough of it. It seems we can, I can harp on it continually and yet the knee-jerk reactions come forth, it spells us, it's telling, it's the proof of it all. Here we are trafficking in Holy things, in eternal matters, from a variety of view point and perspective. In different frames of mind and different, malleable dispositions even in any given moment. Certainly we are going to be at times ... emotional, and overwrought with confusion or giving off a wrong appearance, things are tangled and mangled, tossed and tempested ... grieved, troubled ... besides ourselves. How we tame these animal spirits as I read it recently, control the passions that overwhelm us. The forms and manners of extremisms, the baby and the bathwater, suspicions, accusations ... Oh, for some clarity!

Since I am going on, feeling so reticent to confess and draw out confession. Isn't it truly what we need far more of? Not a belittling of ourselves from so much introspection, but just a forthcoming of ... our regrets? I do think that many of us must have them, "I wish I wouldn't have said that", "I wish I would have just left well enough alone". "That's not really what I meant." But isn't his the very remedy for what ails us?

Pardon the dumping out of all this here, needed to get it off my chest, off my heart. I am concerned more and more about ... perception after all. Despite what I forwarded last night. Truly though, the perception is towards what this site is portraying. Is it glorifying to the Lord? If it isn't ... then it is a deep grievance, It can take some imagination but it also does at times come into the hearing in a variety of ways just what all this looks like, sounds like to those sitting back peering into it all. It should give pause to concern. Think of all the eyes upon us as we write. We certainly do not consider enough the Lords looking into it all or we would likely not speak the half of what we do speak. But maybe to lower the gaze enough to our imagination, to the possibilities that do exist. Other churches and their members, other pastors, even other speakers that we may be somewhat familiar with due to their messages being presented here, that they themselves may be peering into all these things.

If we were face to face, in their physical presence .. would we be more .. sober ... careful ... considerate? Does it not give a least a pause, a sense of trembling ... some ... regret?

This needs to come back to Diane's considerations as the questions are being asked. I apologize again for taking these liberties here. Just want to leave off with a couple of notes that have been on my heart of late.

Walking in the Spirit.

"I was in the Spirit on the Lords day"

The evidence of the Holy Spirit, cutting through all the words and commotion and discussion. Do we see the evidence of Him. And acknowledge that. A couple of verses that have been percolating for some time;

*That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. Phm 1:6*

"Every good thing". Those we disagree with, those that may cause us some irritability, any good thing, every good thing. That we might recognize those and make mention of them. And just as well, grapple with the reasons why we find those of us irritable in the first place, perhaps "Is it I?" applies more than we know.

Lastly.

Reading through Alexander Whyte's great book on prayer and in one of those interesting moments where one takes a point away far different than was intended ... Those great revelatory moments when scripture may speak in another way, not out of it's context but ... Goodness, speak already!

Luk 11:6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?



His way and manner of drawing off this whole parable is tremendous but it struck me differently.

*I have nothing to set before him*

All because I did not pray and so I have nothing to set before you.

Thanks for the opportunity and you bearing with me here. Pray for the man, pray for this site ... pray for one another.

*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/14 10:43**

Quote:

-----All because I did not pray and so I have nothing to set before you.  
-----

O brother, this jumped out and throttled me. It is true, so true, and it is my sentence here as well. I also confess I did not pray before coming into this thread, and my posts stink of decaying manna. Please forgive me, my brothers and sisters; though my intent here was noble and sober, the *fragrance of God* was not upon them, as they had been posted without prayer and earnest consideration.

Forgive me, David, if my contributions here seemed to insult and belittle you. Pray that God would give me more discernment and wisdom as to how and when to post in the future.

p.s. Dear David, I actually love to read Wigglesworth, and I know you are fond of him as well! I have the complete collection of his life teachings in my office library, and I have a link to something you may be interested in. It's an old thread I made when I first joined SermonIndex called ([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id11497&forum35&start30&viewmode=flat&order1](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id11497&forum35&start30&viewmode=flat&order1)) Smith Wigglesworth Praying in a Restaurant. You'll find some very interesting accounts there, one of raising an embalmed body from the dead at a funeral parlor. In any case, I hope you enjoy it, and see that I'm just not some stuffy religionist with an aversion to signs and wonders. Think of me more as a...well, a Puritan who also happens to believe in the gifts and speaking in tongues and miracles, though zealous to see them used in the proper balance of the Holy Spirit and not abused.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/14 12:44**

Words I happened to find in an essay by Martin Luther King Jr:

"Experience has shown that some of the richest insights into religious truth came when two groups of Christians with contrasting backgrounds wrestle with one another over some fundamental issue, candidly but respectfully, listening for the word God may be seeking to convey to them through their theological adversaries."

([http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/publications/papers/vol2/520115-Contemporary\\_Continental\\_Theology.htm](http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/publications/papers/vol2/520115-Contemporary_Continental_Theology.htm) ) source

Diane

Re:, on: 2008/3/14 17:44

Hi Paul,

Quote:

-----Hi Linn. Do we even read each other's posts before replying? I mean really read them?  
-----

I believe so, but I'll keep working at it in case I could improve. Perhaps you didn't notice the start of your post on p1 which h said

Quote:

-----Raising the dead, laughing revivals? **Friend, I agree we should throw these out.**  
-----

Having quoted the rest of the paragraph in your recent reply to me, I'm not really placated by the way your challenge was based on the controversy it might cause amongst us if we discuss one of Christ's commands, and not at all about the question of how to obey Him.

That's really all I want to say, seeing we all think we believe in apostolic Christianity. I don't know how any of us can take the controversy out of that.... Better get used to it, and learn to stick together while we have the leisure to get to know one another.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/14 17:49

Quote:

-----Friend, I agree we should throw these out.  
-----

Hi Linn, I was discussing this with David, if you remember, and not trying to placate you, actually you weren't even part of the equation at the time.

I saw that David was grouping laughing revivals with raising the dead with whatever else decidedly charismatic...and those were *his words*, that is "throw out". There is great controversy in this, obviously, as the very suggestion of these things was put forth in light of the topic at hand: "polemics". I was merely doing a play on his words "throw out", that's all. One great, big misunderstanding - an attempt at some wit that backfired - and now things are being taken out of context and the confusion is compounded...

Let's lay it down and give it rest now, okay? I'm ready if you are. I repent of posting my thoughts in this thread. I should have prayed first. God bless you, sister.

Brother Paul :-)

Re: Submitting to God's design - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/14 18:27

Quote:

----- I believe so, but I'll keep working at it in case I could improve.  
-----

Blessings sister! Linn, I have had this sense today too that the Lord is asking you to submit to your brother Paul. Lay down your verbal tools for the time being and simply listen to what God is saying to you through him. Honestly, I don't know why I am saying this, but no doubt it will become apparent in time. I say this with tears.

Diane

Re:, on: 2008/3/14 19:19

Hi Paul,

I thought we were all in this together. Seriously. All threads are linear. Yes, you replied to David and I joined in later. My comment about placation was to do with your response to me on this page.

Now, going back to p1, there has been a simple misunderstanding. If you look at what preceded David's 'throw out' comment, it did not mean 'let's discard'.

He said:

'Wow i have arrived !! finally a home! An actual thread where i am welcome!!  
Where do we start???

Lets throw out some possibilities;'

Does this sound as if he was *discarding* topics - or, was he suggesting them?

Diane, I know you can't see what's going on in my ears, but I am listening very carefully to my brother Paul. Perhaps that's the trouble.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/14 19:39

Quote:

-----Does this sound as if he was discarding topics - or, was he suggesting them?  
-----

Let me again try to spell this out for you: David was indeed *suggesting* these things, and I was attempting to *discard* them for the sake of the controversy they would muster on SermonIndex. Brownsville? Laughing Revivals? It was a play on words: "Yes, *let's indeed throw them out!*" though it never meant I "sweepingly dismissed" raising the dead as a doctrine. You turned it into that. If I may say so, this is a classic case of you (forgive me, I know I'm not supposed to say "you" according to the polemics article) coming into the middle of a conversation, meddling in something I was trying to work out with another person, and instead of helping, everything is now totally muddled and confused and off track and this thread is just you and I going back and forth. And the world is reading this thread. Sister, this has been done before. A few times. It's almost as if you deliberately feel you must challenge everything I say. Every single post of yours in this thread has been aimed at me, to somehow usurp and confound what I am trying to minister. I directed you earlier to LittleGift's post; sister, have you checked it out? She encapsulated everything I meant, and said it much better than I did - without the verbosity, without the turgid thought, and without all the friction.

Quote:

----- I am listening very carefully to my brother Paul. Perhaps that's the trouble.  
-----

That doesn't sound very encouraging on my end...

**JESUS, on: 2008/3/14 19:41**

Diane, my heart is racing because I feel as though I am stepping on Holy ground by entering your thread - but I need to let out what is in me stronger than life itself.  
I downloaded your article as soon as you posted it.

I can't post anymore after this post - but the Holy ground I feel on this thread and where I feel it's trying to draw us to, is to 'no one' or 'nothing but' **HIMSELF~JESUS**.

That is why certain ministries have attracted me so. Such as Chip's - Art Katz' - Richard Wurmbbrand and so forth and even my own local Church.

"CHRISTOCENTRIC"

This is what I pray and have been praying since I first came in 2005.

It's NOT about "us" --- and when we see that it is "Not all about us" or "Not about us at all" - then Glory-Forever when HE and HE Only is lifted up.

This quoted post and thread link is not about me - though I know for most, I didn't have to say that.

This is what I pray for this year again. **JUST GIVE ME JESUS !**

Quote:

-----Brother Everett, right now I'm so caught up in JESUS, all day praying for them up in Canton has got me in tears.

**WE NEED JESUS!!!**

Brother I can barely speak. Reading what Apollos wrote yesterday and knowing what it is to have HIM allow us to actually sit with HIM in HIS Presence is beyond words. So many days, I've turned to Him and merely whispered, are You there for me to be with and talk to and HE was always faithful to be there and allow me - a wretch like me - to feel like I was part of His Bride. What on earth could be more unimaginable than that?

JESUS-JESUS-JESUS - there is nothing else.

Until we come to the complete end of ourselves and HE allows us to be stripped of everything and we're left to do nothing but cleave to HIM for our very life - we'll only give birth to the wind.

Help me pray brother - Bring JESUS and nothing and no one else to us.

That we'll know HIM and how to come into HIS Presence when we are alone. And take HIM with us when we leave.

Oh just give us JESUS Dear GOD.

Let our Love for HIM increase to the point where we can barely stand it or contain it - without saying HIS Name again and again and again.

Just give us JESUS. Nothing else will do. Nothing else is REAL. No other words but HIS are Real or Reality.

OH JESUS WE LOVE YOU. Please hear the cries of your Saints Dear LORD. Please hear their cries Precious Savior Lord and GOD.  
We Love YOU.

([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id7346&forum36&start0&viewmode=flat&order0](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id7346&forum36&start0&viewmode=flat&order0)) fourth post pg 6

GOD Bless you.  
Just give us Jesus.

Anne

**Re: JESUS - posted by deltadom (), on: 2008/3/14 21:23**

Firstly this term is new to me!

What do we mean!

Do we love those that Jesus hates?

I see no problem loving people even those who are adversely against me! I love them enough to pull them out of a fire.

If people are ruining the bible so that christian may be unified, I would disagree with them diametrically.

Job 10:8 - Show Context

Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me.

Ps 133:1 - Show Context

A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Eph 4:3 - Show Context

endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 4:13 - Show Context

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

What has happened in the UK in unity is churches from different denominations have tried to unify or make out they are in unity! The problem is they are not! and whether they are a church or not.

1Co 11:3 - Show Context

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God

Eph 4:15 - Show Context

but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

Eph 5:23 - Show Context

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Joh 15:4 - Show Context

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Joh 15:5 - Show Context

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Joh 10:2 - Show Context

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:3 - Show Context

To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Joh 10:4 - Show Context

And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Joh 10:7 - Show Context

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

Joh 10:8 - Show Context

All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

Joh 10:11 - Show Context

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Joh 10:12 - Show Context

But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

Joh 10:13 - Show Context

The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

Joh 10:14 - Show Context

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

Joh 10:15 - Show Context

As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

Joh 10:16 - Show Context

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Joh 10:26 - Show Context

But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

Joh 10:27 - Show Context

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

What do we gather from these passages that people who are essentially in Jesus are his church as a body cannot be disconnected from the head else your body does not work.

As the Post said before Jesus is essentially the foundation of the church.

We need him desperately!! There is no church other than him

**Re:, on: 2008/3/15 6:36**

AMEN!!! Annie and Dom, thank you!

**Re: on the art of listening - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/15 9:14**

Quote:  
----- Diane, I know you can't see what's going on in my ears, but I am listening very carefully to my brother Paul. Perhaps that's the trouble.  
-----

Surely we cannot be expected to accept that careful listening is ever the trouble. Linn, in your case it would seem that Paul is not near as assured by your self-assurance on the matter. Why do you think he have responded in this way:

Quote:  
----- That doesn't sound very encouraging on my end...  
-----

Recently I told one of my children: "Self-evaluation is not a good way to assess ourselves." Linn, I suggest that Paul would be the better one to evaluate the success of your listening endeavours. Not only that, I'm convinced that you can be richly blessed by him if you are open to pastoral exhortation, in quiet submission.

Linn said:

Quote:

----- seeing we all think we believe in apostolic Christianity. I don't know how any of us can take the controversy out of that....  
-----

This is exactly why I posted this thread! It offers us some useful practical tools so we can know how to move beyond stalemates. That is important, as it makes the church a strong and unified body. This is not about the superficial unity -- you know, where we all just decide to be nice to each other, comfort each other with a few verses, and avoid polemic issues. ( see my quote by Martin Luther King)

Consider this quote from the first section of the "Polemic Theology" article:

"... we owe it to our opponents to deal with them in such a way that they may sense that we have a real interest in them as persons, that we are not simply trying to win an argument or show how smart we are, but that we are deeply interested in them--and are eager to learn from them as well as to help them.

There is a practical lesson here. While engaging in a dispute, we are naturally convinced that our highest goal is to assert our own position and take the speck out of the eye of the other. But more and more I am suspecting that this is not God's highest goal. His goal is about the development of our own character. Our manner of dealing with others says a lot about ourselves -- and others can usually see that more clearly than we can ourselves. (Often I only see my foolishness after exposing it in the full view of the public. :-o Then I realize how blind I can be while speaking or writing)

What do you think of my thought here:

In our culture there is a tendency to rely heavily on empirical knowledge (ie knowledge acquired through one's own sense experiences.) We then draw global conclusions from that knowledge. But really, who of us has the full line on empirical knowledge? It's impossible! (I think this topic deserves to be expounded)

I just had a brand new idea: There are many out there who are well-equipped to handle matters of polemic theology, and they are doing an admirable job. Perhaps we'd find it more fruitful to learn from them rather than hastily assume roles in areas we are not near as well-equipped as we may think.

Diane

**Re:, on: 2008/3/15 10:49**

Quote:

-----"... we owe it to our opponents to deal with them in such a way that they may sense that we have a real interest in them as persons, that we are not simply trying to win an argument or show how smart we are, but that we are deeply interested in them--and are eager to learn from them as well as to help them."  
-----

Diane, much of this article is based on humanism...political correctness, now being pushed off in the Church as well as the world.

I do see however this idea used to bring together Protestants and Catholics...Mormons and Christians through friendly dialogue.

I also remember a very good comment on another thread when someone asked how to witness to a Muslim....answer...don't go off on rabbit trails...stick right to the heart of salvation...SIN.

This article is written by a Reformed Theologian, and the real JIST of this article is how Calvinists and Arminians can work things out.

I know the greatest "pick up line" Calvinists use is...."Ask me a question and I will answer it for you".

I do believe when the HOLY SPIRIT is in control, we speak SCRIPTURE, and Jesus said MY WORDS are SPIRIT and L

IFE.(((nothing about ours))

Sorry Folks.....We compare Spiritual with Spiritual, and some things are non-negotiable.

Then we have one who may have spiritually grown out of some silly ideas, and now because of this \*what ever you call it\*\* article ..... apologizing ...but not for his spiritual growth I hope.

Don't put your faith in the wisdom of men...but in the power of God!!!!

Katy

**Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/15 11:20**

Quote:  
-----I do believe when the HOLY SPIRIT is in control, we speak SCRIPTURE, and Jesus said MY WORDS are SPIRIT and LIFE.(((nothing about ours))  
-----

You can speak scripture all you like and still give no evidence of the Holy Spirit's control. In fact, it proves just the opposite far too often.

**Re: A request for warrant - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/15 11:32**

Katy said:

Quote:  
----- much of this article is based on humanism...political correctness, now being pushed off in the Church as well as the world.  
-----

Katy, I would appreciate support for your view - with quotes from the article.

Quote:  
----- This article is written by a Reformed Theologian,  
-----

How is the fact that he is Reformed problematic?

Quote:  
----- Â...the real JIST of this article is how Calvinists and Arminians can work things out.  
-----

Is this bad? How do you know that Nicole may have an unrighteous motive for writing this article? Do you think the following statement could conceal a less than honorable motive?

As a Calvinist, I may so stress the sovereignty of God that the reality of human decision may appear to be ruled out. Here again, I should feel grateful rather than resentful. The adversative situation may well force me to give better attention to the fullness of revelation and preclude an innate one-sidedness which results in a caricature that does disservice to truth no less than an actual error may do.

Katy, I'm just curious, do you think that there is anything at all in this article that is salveable for yourself, personally?

Diane



Re:, on: 2008/3/15 11:34

Quote:  
-----You can speak scripture all you like and still give no evidence of the Holy Spirit's control. In fact, it proves just the opposite far too of  
ten  
-----

Mike, I agree. But I said when the Holy Spirit is in control

Katy

Re:, on: 2008/3/15 11:58

Quote:  
-----Katy, I'm just curious, do you think that there is anything at all in this article that is salveable for yourself, personally?  
-----

Quote from article:

The first thing that I should be prepared to learn is that I may be wrong and the other person may be right. Obviously, this does not apply to certain basic truths of the faith like the Deity of Christ or salvation by grace.

Lets take this point for example.

Calvinists have a very DIFFERENT understanding of Salvation by Grace. AND according to Nicole, to a Calvinist...according to \*Calvin\* beliefs....to them this is non...negotiable.

I believe in Salvation by Grace through faith, but NOT Calvinism.

You will also see on many threads here extensive dialogue between these two groups that has NEVER ended with a Calvinist saying....gee, maybe I'm wrong. They will never...and according to this comment...they will never!

So, we see all else is built on this foundation correct?

I believe in eternal security, but not Calvinism.

Diane, many BIBLE Believing Christians believe in their eternal security based on scripture, not Calvinism. Abram Cooper III is one.

What I saw here was interesting. You posted a place where anything goes ((according to some who took this thread that way.... Quote: Now I've found a place where I am welcome,..... and used it to push an agenda....and used this article as his defence not to be challenged.

Is this what you wanted to accomplish?

Personally, I believe anyone who tries to raise the dead...after their souls have passed to either to be with the Lord, or held in hades, can NOT be summonsed back to enter back into their bodies. I call that witchcraft.

Jesus said \*I AM\* the resurrection, and blessed are those who have part of the First Resurrection.

I will not negotiate THAT belief with anyone either. Sorry David, I love you, but are you raising a dead person without their soul? or isn't this getting in tough with the departed called sorcery, mediums? Isn't this what they do at those 1-900 numbers, palm readers, crystal bowl peepers....

My understanding about these raised people is no one can find them to interview!

Katy

PS, but according to this author only the Deity of Christ and salvation by Grace is non negotiable.

There are many things non-negotiable....and what do I owe someone .....lengthy conversations? No I owe them scripture....

Paul said OWE NO MAN anything, but to love one another.

He also said in Galatians concerning the Lawyers.....not even for one minute!

**Re: More food for thought - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/15 12:15**

*YOUNG and inexperienced people ought to be subject to the aged; for what can be more indecorous than to see a stripling standing up at a church meeting, and, with confidence and flippancy, opposing his views to those of a godly disciple, old enough to be his grandfather? Youth loses its loveliness when it loses its humility. They should hearken with deference and most reverential attention to the opinion of the aged. Nor does the obligation rest here; it extends to those who are equal in age and rank. Church members should be subject to each other; they should not be determined at all events to have their own way—but should go as far as biblical principle would let them, in giving up their own views and personal biases, to the rest of the group. Everyone should hearken with respectful attention to the opinions of others, and be willing to sacrifice his own personal opinion. The 'contention' ought not to be for rule—but for subjection. Instead of haughtily exclaiming, "I have as much right to have my way as any one else!" we should say, "I have an opinion, and will mildly and respectfully state it; yet I will not force it upon the church—but give way to the superior wisdom of others, if I am opposed." There should be in every member a supposition that others may see as clearly, probably more so—than himself.*

*The democratic principle in our system of church government must not be stretched too far. The idea of equal rights is soon abused, and converted into the means of turbulence and faction. Liberty, unity, and equality, are words which, both in church and state, have often become the signals, in the mouths of some, for the lawless invasion of the rights of others. It has been strangely forgotten, that no man in social life has a right to please only himself; his will is, or ought to be, the good of the whole. And that individual violates at once the social compact, whether in ecclesiastical or civil society, who pertinaciously and selfishly exclaims, "I will have my way!" Such a declaration constitutes him a rebel against the community. Yet, alas! how much of this rebellion is to be found not only in the world—but in the church! And what havoc and desolation has it occasioned! Unfortunately for the peace of our churches, it is sometimes disguised, by the deceitfulness of the human heart—under the cloak of zeal for the general good. Church members should enter into these sentiments, and thus comply with the apostolic admonitions, "Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory—but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." Phil. 2:3. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10.*

*It is absolutely necessary, in order to offences being removed, that the offender, upon his being convicted of an injury, should make all suitable concession; and it will generally be found, that in long continued and complicated strifes, this obligation becomes mutual. Whoever is the ORIGINAL aggressor a feud seldom continues long, before both parties are to blame. Even the aggrieved individual has something to concede; and the way to induce the other to acknowledge his greater offence, is for him to confess his lesser one. It is the mark of a noble and godly mind to confess an error, and solicit its forgiveness. "Confess your faults one to another," is an inspired injunction.*

*The man who is too proud to acknowledge his fault, when his conduct demands it, has violated his duty, and is a fit subject for censure. There are some people, so far forgetful of their obligations to Christ and to their brethren, as not only to refuse to make concession—but even to give excuses for their sinful behavior. Their proud spirits disdain even to afford the least satisfaction in the way of throwing light upon a supposed offence. This is most criminal, and is such a defiance of the authority of the Lord Jesus, as ought to bring the individual before the discipline of the church.*

*We should be very cautious not to exact unreasonable concession. A revengeful spirit is often as effectually gratified by imposing hard and humiliating terms of reconciliation, as it possibly could be by making the severest retaliation. No offender is so severely punished, as he who is obliged to degrade himself in order to obtain a pardon. And as all revenge is unlawful, we should be extremely careful not to gratify it at the very time and by the manner in which we are dispensing p*

*ardon. To convince a brother, not to degrade him, is the object we are to seek; and especially should we endeavor to show him, that his offence is more against Christ than against ourselves.*

([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic\\_id18426&forum34&post\\_id&refreshGo](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id18426&forum34&post_id&refreshGo)) DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS TOWARDS EACH OTHER(even on Christian Forums) -J.A James

**Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/3/15 12:25**

Hi everyone,

Katy-Did,

"I do believe when the HOLY SPIRIT is in control, we speak SCRIPTURE, and Jesus said MY WORDS are SPIRIT and LIFE.(((nothing about ours)))"

Katy, I want to take an opportunity here to air something that was hurtfull to me sometime back. I want to do this because I think I should make it known to you, and also because it seems to fit with the topic here.

In the thread titled "This needs attending to:", on page 9, you wrote:

"I've often wondered why Calvinists open their mouth at all. If not to witness, then is it just to boast and stick out their tongue. What they are really doing is slandering God's Character."

This was hurtfull to me. I'm not a "calvanist", but these words, and others like them, are hurtfull to me.

There are many different backgrounds of believers here. There is so much that many of us probably disagree about. But I hope that we can disagree with each other, without destroying each other. And I think that some of us here are trying to be united in a common purpose, of hoping to see God come to our lives and to our lands.

Thank you for considering this Katy,

Chris

**Re: masterbuilders - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/3/15 12:28**

Sometimes I have thought about the passage in 2Timothy that talks about the different vessels in a great house.

Well, imagine a worker in a house that was so careless in his work that he went around smashing all the vessels in the master's house. He may have swept the floor very well, but what good is that if he left piles of broken potsherds and glasses behind him.

**Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/15 12:35**

Katy said

Quote:  
-----Personally, I believe anyone who tries to raise the dead...after their souls have passed to either to be with the Lord, or held in hades, can NOT be summonsed back to enter back into their bodies. I call that witchcraft.  
-----

For anyone wishing to catch the previous discussion, look before and after the page to which this link will take you. Perhaps that's the place to continue that discussion.

([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id21670&forum48&start90&viewmode=flat&order0](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id21670&forum48&start90&viewmode=flat&order0)) Bush launches key Mid-East tour to last ONE WEEK

Katy,

I do accept how you feel about this topic and I don't pretend to understand it fully, but, I believe there is a world of difference between people calling up dead spirits (without their bodies), as the witch of Endor did, and what Elijah, Jesus, Peter (at least), and possibly other apostles (including Paul) did, during their ministries. How do you interpret the raising to life which God has done since then?

EDIT: What I mean is, for instance... in the middle of p6 of this thread, PaulWest recalls Smith Wigglesworth's testimony, even

Quote:  
-----one of raising an embalmed body from the dead at a funeral parlor.  
-----

I didn't want you to miss that this has been mentioned.

**Re:, on: 2008/3/15 12:59**

Quote:  
-----How do you interpret the raising to life which God has done since then?  
-----

Can you prove through scripture these raised were 6 feet under? Or possibly just passing. We also have in our day Doctors who can bring a patient back to life...however none have ever confessed they came back from hell or were asleep in the Lord.

I don't see any scripture where the Apostles were taken to graveyards and raised anyone's ancestors.

So we do need to put things into perspective.

Those spoken in Luke, one group on the side called Abraham's bosom, and the other...hades, state no one return back, or even could send messages back.

Here is what the Bible says:

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Chris, to your reply or question or comment. I am sorry that comment hurt you. But this is not even my question or comment, but a comment coming from many many who have been HURT by the teachings of Calvinism.....

I also believe, if not in this thread but maybe a post later was based on those who BOYCOTT revivals wearing T Shirts that say...NO CHOICE.

So, I would have to read the WHOLE conversation in its original context.

Katy

**Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/15 13:40**

Quote:

-----Can you prove through scripture these raised were 6 feet under?  
-----

Hi Katy,

It is you who has introduced the '6 feet under' clause. But that is not in scripture. The closest to come to this are Lazarus and Jesus, who had been formally laid in their tombs.

At no time have David or myself advocated the digging up of bodies.

**Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/15 14:01**

Speaking of digging up bodies ... Being that David has seemingly excused himself from this conversation there is no need for any of us to be speaking in his stead. Not that there would be if he was indeed present.

**Re: Where's that support for your argument? - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/15 14:31**

Katie said:

Quote:  
----- You posted a place where anything goes ((according to some who took this thread that way.... and used this article as his defence not to be challenged.  
Is this what you wanted to accomplish?  
-----

As I recall I challenged this zeal by appealing to the content of the article. I believe that the mission was accomplished. I know, for myself, how easy it is to form ideas in my mind before adequately absorbing the material.

And now I appeal to you to post some actual quotes directly from it to support your concern that it is a tool to promote po

litical correctness.

I am willing to be "converted" by you, as long as you can show me how your position is correct.  
Diane

**Re:, on: 2008/3/15 14:46**

Quote:

-----To me the Box is the "law"  
-----

The Box is the law? Thats a new one.

**Re:, on: 2008/3/15 17:23**

Here is a beginning quote from this article:

Quote:

-----Christians have not managed in many cases to win over their opponents  
-----

Now, what and who are the \*\*opponents\*\*...the unsaved or the saved?

Diane, not wanting to dig up more dead weight here but here is a perfect example of what I'm trying to say. On another subject (two maybe more posted here on the sabbath) but that thread was concerning the sabbath as being Saturday, to be kept.

Yet we see Paul's words here say we are to be fully persuaded in our own mind.

Taking a closer look at this, would you say that some things are based upon PERSONAL Conviction, and don't need to be undermined by someone else's Theology?

Romans 14:5

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Some things we don't need to let others make up our minds for us.

We're not all going to agree on many issues..especially in today's world of Christianity. With Apostasy on the rise, the Emergent Church, those who throw out those who adhere to the Truths of scripture are called the troublemakers. Be that as it may. Maybe that's the MARKS of the Lord Jesus we bear in our bodies.

(( Never to be ashamed of))

You see, many want \*\*their mark\*\* upon you. A Trophy they seemed to have won over to their theological stand point. This is what this article says to me. It's not about preaching the Gospel...but Theology....

Added:

Galatians 6:13

For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

This ol game has been around for sometime now.

That's why we have many diferent denominations. Due to Theological differences. The reason it is so, is because these i ssues could not be ironed out to begin with.

We need the wisdom of God to know the difference between the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, doctrines of demons, and the doctrines of men.

Jude says beware of those who sneak in unaware.

2nd & 3rd John says...don't even let them in the door.

Katy

PS and as you see, that issue was not resolved by either side. AND I thoroughly believe it NEVER will.

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/15 18:28**

Katie, I see a common tone in your writings. Do you see it?

Quote:

----- We're not all going to agree on many issues  
-----

Quote:

----- this ol game has been around for sometime now  
-----

Quote:

----- that issue was not resolved by either side. AND I thoroughly believe it NEVER will.  
-----

Quote:

----- these issues could not be ironed out to begin with.  
-----

These all seem to portray a tone of decided defeat. Or is the reason you are not delving into the article, even in order to use any of it to prove your point, is that it is uncharted territory for you? I don't know, but if that is the case (and that's ok ay!), then it would seem better not to make any judgment call on the matter. As I implied earlier: Perhaps in many instan ces we should leave the job with those who are well-equipped while we remain silent - and focus on what God is teachi ng us about ourselves.

And this comment:

Quote:

----- Â... some things are based upon PERSONAL Conviction, and don't need to be undermined by someone elses Theology?  
-----

Does this not come very close to the language of inclusivism and political correctness?

Diane

**Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/15 19:17**

Hello Diane,

God bless you, too, sister. :-)

First, let me say I'm not replying to your previous posts to me, or to Paul's, until I've settled on the best way to do that, overall.

Quote:

-----Does this not come very close to the language of inclusivism...  
-----

It just shows how far language has strayed from its original roots.

I thought 'inclusivism' meant we all have to *give up some* of what we believe, to come a bit closer ('water down' according to Mr Obama) to each others' views. Or, would my definition of the word be a shifting of the original goal posts? (And would we be surprised if it is?)

**Re., on: 2008/3/15 19:39**

Linn, I too seem to understand that the same as you. And I thoroughly agree with what you said here.

What we do see happening is a melting down and meshing together through this type of article.

MY comments Diane were based on what I have seen here on SI with many discussions of many topics.

I also used an example of a subject that has NEVER been resolved, not only here but out there as well. Does that make ME a cynic? No actually a realist.

This article is one man's opinion, and is not added into the Bible as ordained by God. It can be used in a good way as well as a bad way.

It's not my fault Protestant mean to protest Catholicism. They separated themselves based on irreconcilable differences .

But now we do see this approach used opening dialogue . Has this weakened the CHURCH? I do believe it has.

Now there is different stages of spiritual growth...and we are called to MATURITY. That's non-negotiable. Those aren't the opponents I believe this article is speaking to.

One thing I do find interesting as well. \*This article\* should not be held over anyone's head as a club to bring anyone into submission for boldly stating personal conviction...that has been stated by many a Godly Pastor TODAY.

Katy



**Re: Polemic Theology: How to Deal with Those Who Differ from Us, on: 2008/3/15 19:42**

crsschk said

Quote:

-----there is no need for any of us to be speaking in his stead  
-----

Hi Mike,

I linked to the old thread to try to avoid it, but for the sake of those who might think the digging up of bodies had been advocated by those in the previous discussions - going back beyond the linked thread - I believe it was necessary to mention it here most clearly, especially since 'raising the dead' has been one of the balls in this conversation.

**Re:, on: 2008/3/15 20:09**

Diane asked:

Quote:

-----These all seem to portray a tone of decided defeat. Or is the reason you are not delving into the article, even in order to use any of it to prove your point, is that it is uncharted territory for you?  
-----

Actually No Diane,

Is Paul here stating defeat?

Titus 3:10

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

It's important to know who considers you an opponent. If a Calvinist considers me the opponent who wants to win me over.....can't be done.

Does that make them the defeated?

I hope so!!!

We are more than conquerors In Christ Jesus....overcoming anything that is NOT of Christ!

Katy

**Re: What Can I Learn from Those Who Differ From Me? - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/16 4:54**

According to Nicole, those who differ from us can actually help us refine and strengthen the presentation of our position. The following snippets from his article expound on that important truth:

What Can I Learn from Those Who Differ From Me?  
Could I be Wrong?

The first thing that I should be prepared to learn is that I may be wrong and the other person may be right. Obviously, this does not apply to certain basic truths of the faith like the Deity of Christ or salvation by grace. The whole structure of th

e Christian faith is at stake here, and it would be instability rather than broad-mindedness to allow these to be eroded by doubts. Yet, apart from issues where God Himself has spoken so that doubt and hesitancy are really not permissible, there are numerous areas where we are temperamentally inclined to be very assertive and in which we can quite possibly be in error. When we are unwilling to acknowledge our fallibility, we reveal that we are more interested in winning a discussion and safeguarding our reputation than in the discovery and triumph of truth. A person who corrects our misapprehensions is truly our helper rather than our adversary, and we should be grateful for this service rather than resentful of the correction. (Å...)

What are the Facts?

In the second place we may learn from one who differs that our presentation, while correct as far as it goes, fails to embody the truth in its entirety on the subject in view. Although what we assert is true, there are elements of truth that, in our own clumsy way, we have overlooked. For instance, we may be so concerned to assert the deity of Christ that we may appear to leave no room for His humanity. (Å...)

What are the Dangers?

I may learn from those who differ from me that I have not sufficiently perceived certain dangers to which my view is exposed and against which I need to be especially on guard. I may find out notably that there are certain weighty objections to which I had not given sufficient attention heretofore. Here again, I must be grateful for a signal service rendered by the objector. Instead of being irked by the opposition, I should rise to the challenge of presenting my view with appropriate safeguards and in such a way as to anticipate objections that are likely to arise.(Å...)

What about Ambiguities?

We may learn from those who object that we are not communicating as we should and that they have not rightly understood what we wanted to say. In this we can be benefited also, for the whole purpose of speaking (or writing) is to communicate. If we don't communicate, we might as well remain silent. And if we don't manage to communicate properly what we think, we have to learn to speak better. (Å...)

I'd say that some of the greatest benefits of forums such as SI potentially lie within the teachings of these statements. Have you found that to be true? I have.

Praise God for SI!

Oh Lord, keep us from getting trapped in fruitless discussion, but please nudge us on towards higher aspirations - for our growth and for the edification of fellow saints!

Diane

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2008/3/16 9:57**

My advise to all is to forget all that been said here and go with the Holy Spirit to led you "through" scripture trust me you cannot go wrong with this advise. Mans opinions or wisdom cannot even come close to what God is telling us through the Holy Spirit, so disagree or argue or debate all you want and that might be healthy to some, but you will still be off considerably compared to what Gods tells us through the Holy Spirit. :-)

Re:, on: 2008/3/16 10:37

Excellent Bill! The Holy Spirit IS our Teacher, the is HIS ministry. HE will lead us into all truth.

Here is what Scripture tells us concerning those who oppose themselves.

2 Timothy 2:20-29

20But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Katy

Re: Isolated individualistic understanding - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/16 11:45

Quote:  
-----My advise to all is to forget all that been said here and go with the Holy Spirit to led you "through" scripture trust me you cannot go wrong with this advise.  
-----

Then why this does continue to prove out the exact opposite?

If we are to forget all that has been said here, would that include even this advise? Why bother if we are all taught as individuals to even come together and compare notes as it were?

Does the Holy Spirit speak contrary to one and to the other something completely foreign? I am deeply grieved over the sin that is prevalent even here. The defending and proud spirit back of the comments. It's evident and yet dismissed. The incredulity and irony of an article that is only a slice of opinion taken to extremes and not even recognizing the fact that even something attempting to speak to how we might discuss matters is made into yet another ... *debate*.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

And the answer is ... 'I don't care' ? That is what is being said like or not, no specific words are necessary.

Re., on: 2008/3/16 12:41

Are we spending our time discussing or obeying.

2 Timothy 2:20

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

We see the friends of Job wanting to discuss Job's situation while Job, going through those fiery trials was the one who said "I shall come forth as GOLD", all the while the friends of Job, giving WRONG advise, whom God was very angry.

There is no other foundation that can be laid. That's a done deal.

Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone. We are told to be careful how we build upon this foundation. We can build Gold, silver and precious stone, or wood, hay and stubble. This Gold and Silver only comes to us one way...through the fellowship of His sufferings. This does not come through vicarious discussions...but personal intimate union with Jesus Christ as we live by the Faith of Christ...

Philippians 3:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Note Paul stresses those who are otherwise minded GOD shall reveal even this unto you.

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Who is speaking here? Who do we buy this gold from? Is it for sale that others can sell, or cheaply purchased through discussions, having a head knowledge of this truth but no reality of this evidence.

Notice the word of BEATEN work... This is beaten by pounding as with a hammer...wrought in. So, it wasn't just purified through the furnace, but beaten as well.

Exodus 37:17

And he made the candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work made he the candlestick; his shaft, and his branch, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, were of the same:

Proverbs 17:3

The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts

Who do the candle stick represent?

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Do some spend their lives in discussions with the opponent? I suppose when the Lord returns, these same people will still be discussing, while others, who have Eyes to see and Ears to Hear the Lords Voice won't spend too much time discussing the WORD, but OBEYING the word.

Katy

**Re: Opposition - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/16 13:08**

Quote:

-----Here is what Scripture tells us concerning those who oppose themselves.  
-----

Are you hearing yourself speak?

Quote:

-----Do some spend their lives in discussions with the opponent? I suppose when the Lord returns, these same people will still be discussing, while others, who have Eyes to see and Ears to Hear the Lords Voice won't spend too much time discussing the WORD, but OBEYING the word.  
-----

Time for some plain speaking.

**quodlibertarian: n.** one who talks and disputes on any subject

As well versed as you may be there is a continual overlooking of those things which even are suggested. You are constantly either creating a controversy or in the midst of one. Diatribes of scriptural bigotry are leveled far and wide, post over post. Stubborn, haughty and proud. No backing off or considering of others, no forthcoming of fault or error, the accusations that are leveled backfire in your own lap but you have gone deaf from hearing your own speaking. It never applies to your own self.

A defense for everything, another verse in reply. It is sin. Pride. To not point it out would be the greater disservice. How many postings have been casted over with a pale due to your contentious attitude. How many have begged off and now stand outside looking in while you go on. And just how long and how far do you expect the patience here to suffer?

*Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Isa 58:4*

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 13:38**

Quote:

-----As well versed as you may be there is a continual overlooking of those things which even are suggested. You are constantly either creating a controversy or in the midst of one. Diatribes of scriptural bigotry are leveled far and wide, post over post. Stubborn, haughty and proud. No backing off or considering of others, no forthcoming of fault or error, the accusations that are leveled backfire in your own lap but you have gone deaf from hearing your own speaking. It never applies to your own self  
-----

Paul said:

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

14I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

One of the headings of this article is:

### **What can I learn from others**

But have we first considered scripture and that comes ABOVE and beyond?

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

John 6:45

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

John 7:15

And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned ?

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

1 Corinthians 4:6

And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

Ephesians 4:20

But ye have not so learned Christ;

Philippians 4:9

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

2 Timothy 3:14

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

Hebrews 5:8

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

And there will come a day when no one can learn this song but those whom GOD has taught!

Revelation 14:3

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

I'm so sorry Mike that you seem to find criticism towards those ...even your remark to Bill, who you in your own pride never think your remarks apply to yourself.

I'm giving a different perspective here that we LEARN of GOD, and not to put too much in the wisdom of men.

God Bless you Mike!

Katy

**Re: let us not forget about forgiveness - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/16 14:06**

This present thread as well as some earlier SI threads alerted me to an important aspect related to this topic. I would go so far to say that Mr. Nicole failed to consider it - and his neglect potentially weakens his entire presentation. That is the topic of forgiveness.

I cannot but assume that polemic theology typically accompanies the experience of hurt and wounding, anger and offence, and (as history has proven) even swords and lynchings. Under such conditions it is extremely difficult to "learn from one's opponents". Worse yet, offences tend to stick hard - forever - and be transmitted down the generations. (and here Katie has a point) Walls of divisions become set in cement, where no one really expects it to change or even want it to change.

Grudges are all too easily cherished. It feels safer to cling to a grudge than to allow ourselves to become vulnerable to those who are not "on our side".

No wonder Jesus underscores the aspect of forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer by repeating it twice afterwards:

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matt. 6:14,15

Forgiveness is not about absolving anyone's wrongs; it is about taking the offender off of our hook and leaving him on God's hook. It frees us to love and learn from him (or her or them).

Of course we can only control our own response, not theirs. We can forgive them by the power of God's Spirit. (see thread on Corrie Ten Boon)

But what about the "opponent" who may be holding an unforgiving spirit towards us - either because of some ill manner on our part, or because of our affiliation with "the opposition", or by our triggering of painful past experience? Surely any of these strongholds are serious blockages for him/her. I believe that unless we take this problem to the Lord in prayer, we may do nothing more than rub salt into the wound - in our attempt to "show him the light". It only makes things worse. This is why it is so important to learn from him first - and see a perspective through his eyes.

As I meditate on these thoughts, the Spirit seems to be saying, "You do what I am calling you to do: learn anyway from him and leave me to deal with him. You love him with the same forgiveness that you received from me."

There is one thing our offender can never, never rob from us - and that is our freedom to learn from him regardless of his flaws. (ex: in ways described in my previous post).

The only one who can rob us is ourselves - by refusing to forgive.

Diane

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 15:00**

Diane, THAT is the most beautiful and profound thing said here from the very beginning.

This thread is really a catch 22. As we each express our thoughts, to agree and agree to disagree, also stating why we do so, backing with scripture, there are those who still want to make railing accusations of hurt towards those who disagree....as was demonstrated.

Quote:

-----Walls of divisions become set in cement, where no one really expects it to change or even want it to change.  
-----

From the very beginning of my coming on here Mike has set up his walls against my posts, with the same spirit today as was months ago.

That was why I said this article could be used in a good way and bad way.

We were discussing the article here, not people.

I saw all three come to rebuke Forrest for questioning the authority of Paul, yet did I fail to see such defence when the D of Christ was in question? Maybe I missed that!

No, I saw rebuke, and those called troublemakers who did, being accused of causing contention...thereby locking thread s. I'm sorry Mike, but you've locked many threads I have never even posted on.

Is this what these discussions are resulting in, Compromise?

Do we sometimes keep our mouth shut for fear of being accused of taking sides with people rather than siding with truth ?

Yet we pray for revival....and wonder why God isn't listening!

I forgive you Mike! Maybe we all got a little stung on this thread.

Katy

**Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/3/16 15:36**

Hi everyone,

Katy-Did,

"...there are those who still want to make railing accusations of hurt towards those who disagree....as was demonstrated."  
"

Katy, I'm not sure I understand you here? You say this and then accuse brother Mike of, 'setting up walls' against your p



osts?

When I brought to your attention here earlier the statement you made regarding calvanists in another thread, you said you would have to see the context that it was made in, right? Did you check it out Katy?

Also,

"Maybe we all got a little stung on this thread."

Is that how we look at these things? As little stings?

Thank you for considering this,

Chris

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 16:08**

Mike, something I said in an earlier post (page 3, I think) is relevant here:

Quote:  
-----Among other things, the Lord reminded me of the two good kings, Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah. Both really nice guys (if a king can be called that!), and true men of God. **Yet they compromised and made leagues with their enemies, and with the enemies of their nation, and, more disastrously, with enemies of God**  
-----

And look what the Lord said to a *bad* king because he compromised with the enemy!:

1Kings 20:42 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.

Of course there's no question of killing anyone, but this is the spiritual principle at stake here.

Her manner of expressing it may leave something to be desired, but in this aspect Katy is right.

And again the Word speaks of those who protect the evil and condemn the righteous

Ezekiel 13:22

...ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life...

Please Mike, this is not the first time I've seen you do this.

Moderator or no (and you could have both of us banned for this) I plead with you as a brother in Christ, please listen before it's too late!

in Him

Jeannette

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 16:23**

ChrisJD,

I understand many things said here on SI have hurt you deeply. We discussed this on another thread you started about Judging.

You were totally offended by those going back into the history of the Reformers, stating they had no right to state such things.

I do believe, if not mistaken, even Mike was agreeing with the right to post those comments, regardless if it was hurtful to anyone.

In relation to my comment Chris, under the theology of Calvinism, God's sovereignty chooses those He saves, and He has sovereignty chosen those He has chosen to Hell. The question came up about witnessing on many a Calvinist blog if this were so.

Again, I asked a question ...not a statement.....

If those who are Calvinists who boycott revivals wear t-shirts saying NO CHOICE, then I believe THAT is more HURTFUL by 1000% than my question.

I would hope and pray you too find that more hurtful, as we put hurt in perspective.

I did apologize to you that that hurt you.

Now, Jayyou may come on line here as say how hurt he was that I said Jesus was not Michael the Arc angel. I would tell him the same thing I am saying to you.....I'm sorry that comment HURT you, however, reducing Jesus Christ to an Angel is far more hurtful.

Sharon may come on line here and say how hurt she was that many defended the Deity of Christ, rebuked her, but reducing Jesus to anything but GOD is more hurtful.

Forrest I'm sure was Greatly HURT when she questioned the authority of Paul... I know she was hurt, but what she was teaching was far more hurtful than the rebukes she received.

(And I applaud the Moderators for his defence)

The list can go on and on. Yet, all I can say Chris is I'm sorry you are hurt by many comments here, not just mine.

Katy

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/16 16:27**

Quote:  
-----Moderator or no (and you could have both of us banned for this) I plead with you as a brother in Christ, please listen before its too late!  
-----

Before *what's* too late? What in the world is going on here, what exactly is happening on this thread? Everyone needs to just step back, before words are said that will be painfully regretted. This must stop immediately, the rebellion, the candi

d usurpation and systematic contravening of God-ordained leadership and counsel in these forums. The insatiable quest to be *right* at all costs. I would ask all the sisters here to just step back and reason with God. Please.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 16:36**

Quote:

-----  
PaulWest wrote:  
Before *what's* too late?  
-----

Don't ask me, ask the Lord

Jeannette

**Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/3/16 16:41**

Hi Katy-did,

"ChrisJD,  
I understand many things said here on SI have heart you deeply. We discussed this on another thread you started about Judging.

You were totally offended by those going back into the history of the Reformers, stating they had no right to state such things."

But Katy, how do you know the things you are saying here are true or not? Is this what you think?

About this,

"Again, I asked a question ...not a statement....."

Katy, you said

"What they are really doing is slandering God's Character."

And after this, a brother said to you that your words wound the body of Christ.

This is the thread

([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id20678&forum36&start20&viewmode=flat&order1](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id20678&forum36&start20&viewmode=flat&order1)) here

Katy, maybe there is a reason that **you** should be concerned about these things.

May God bless you Katy,

Chris

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/16 16:46**

Quote:

-----Don't ask me, ask the Lord  
-----

Sister, don't play games with me. If you must know, I have asked the Lord, and the only thing that may be too late is some of us humbling ourselves before removals begin. Again, I would ask you all to reason with the Lord. This is not a game and this is not a forum where anything goes - scripture references or not.

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 16:56**

Chris....this is my LAST post to you.

I've said what I've said out of personal conviction of my conscience.

You've said what you've said out of yours.

This thread is not about Calvinism to begin with, or healing hurts.

End of discussion Chris!

Katy

**Re: - posted by daniel- (), on: 2008/3/16 16:58**

Hello all people,

I know many persons with whom I disagree on many things but I seek not to argue with them because in the meanwhile I could enjoy sweet fellowship in the Shadow of the Most High and let him live his life in me.

Please brothers and sisters, let us all step back and be honest before God. Let him clothe us with humility and let's end the discussions that are going round and round and round only to end us up in offense and a nagging conscience (hopefully).

Why try to hopelessly prove my point in an internet forum while souls are fading away?

The Lord has been very patient with all of us, let us always remember that.

We ALL have been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus. Our true brothers and sisters (and I believe that the posters in this thread are all true brothers and sisters) are NOT the enemy!

EDIT: PaulWest, I think you are doing a good job in this thread as a responsible person for this forum.

Daniel

**Re: Holy Spirit "time-out" - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/16 17:14**

A few pages ago MrBillPro said:

Quote:

----- go with the Holy Spirit  
-----

I'm going to interject for a moment by sharing a thrilling Holy Spirit story that traces back to the origin of this thread:

Last week I was sitting in a computer bay in a seminary library in Toronto. I had decided to take a quick peak at SI - and just then a young student came beside me. (I had been praying that while at the seminary God would bring strategic people to me.) The student saw the SI page and said, "Wow! Do you go there?! ... I sure was blessed by the Revival Hymn! In fact, it completely changed my life...." (He could recognize most of the voices on that audio!)

Just moments earlier I had been toying with the idea of posting "Polemic Theology" and I shared the idea with him. I expressed my doubt about it, as it would likely sink into the SI underworld within minutes. (Ha!)

Well, you should have heard this student after that. Suddenly I found myself "sitting" at the feet of an anointed pastoral-hearted man. He was not deterred by the fact that I was a total stranger to him or that we were in a crowded computer room. The Spirit empowered him and I knew I was hearing an exhortation from the Lord. I also knew I was to post "Polemic Theology" right then and there.

So, here we all are - marveling at how God knits his Body together. Greg will likely never meet that student. But it's nice that some of the "rain and snow" falls back this way!

And now... the mantra continues: We need to spend time listening to those persons whom we believe are in the wrong. Seeing through their eyes may look very different than through our eyes. We sure don't want to quench what the Spirit may be doing among us by usurping his authority in people's lives.

One more wee nugget: Truth is not just about doctrinal facts. There is also inner truth- that is, truth about ourselves. That kind of truth can be the hardest kind to discover. And yet the discovery of it is the first step to revival.

"Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place." Ps. 51:6

Diane

**Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2008/3/16 17:25**

Please excuse me here; I haven't participated in this thread...

But I become troubled when I see this kind of thing taking place in the family of God.

Something has degenerated here.

Is there not a call for some discernment here in this thread?

Who is it, actually, who is passing us the fiery arrows, which we then shoot at our brother out of our own bow?

"...For we are not ignorant of his devices."

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance unto the acknowledging of the truth, and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Tim. 2.26).

AD

**Re:, on: 2008/3/16 17:27**

“Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.” Ps. 51;6

Oh Diane, how your last post brought to mind Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3

1For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Katy

**Re: JESUS 'IS' GOD !!!, on: 2008/3/16 17:39**

**"GOD"** -ordained leadership and counsel ?

With all due respect Diane - but this has nothing to do with "forgiveness" at this time - but a veil that's been pulled back - but no one has been able to get it out here or get the attention to WHO needs it from us the Most - JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.

And one reason is - is because Forums are ADDICTIVE 'TO SOME' ('THAT' is where "souls are fading away" Brother) and they are afraid of backlash or the excessive banning and the other reason is some are young - which to me is under 50 - and for another - they are banned before they can finish spitting it out. Many joined here already wounded only to be finished off here.

It is time to expose the wizard of oz - because enough have been USED AND ABUSED. ENOUGH !!!

AND MOST ESPECIALLY, THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN 'USED', ARE THOSE WHO ARE NOW IN HEAVEN AND CANNOT PROTECT THEIR WORKS OR SIT HERE AND WATCH FIVE YEARS WORTH OF MISTREATMENT.

Pardon me Diane - but I'm about to use the word "you" quite excessively now.

And we DON'T NEED a "LEAD EWE" - **WE NEED THE CHIEF SHEPHERD HERE.**

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ChrisJD - what did you do to the "Desiring the Gifts on the Spirit" thread and elsewhere ?

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Mike Balog - to not publically say to you what is being held inside by not a few, would be a very great "disservice" {to use your own phrase} to all those who I've come to know here or have seen here (past tense) and on other Websites and even in the Churches or to THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.

You cannot and have not even begun to follow the Article that Diane posted - nonetheless, have dealt fairly with countle

ss members here since I've have viewed this forum - going back to 2003.

When I joined - all the threads from the beginning were still here and I read them all. I downloaded some that really showed how things were. SOME of the posts are mysteriously gone now or edited and I need not say who's. We just watch the locked Moderators forum to know when the next head will fly for years now.

Not only can you Not follow how GOD'S WORD directs "leaders" to treat people, but you cannot even follow this simple piece that Diane posted - nor will you ever - because there IS a tyrannical spirit here and always has been.

**There has always been an extremely strict - overbearing ruling on "proper behavior" - which is very narrowly defined for 'most' of us - but HERETICS that deny the Deity of Christ, and the such, can come here and not only be nasty to you and to us - but are encouraged to stay - while the rest of us must post with fear and trembling - even if all we are asking for is more emphasis on JESUS AND HIS WORD.**

**You in leadership here have Never considered members ages - yet you posted on respecting elders just the other day.**

**Everything you have posted is pure hype and things that you should have looked in the mirror first, before you posted. Everything I've read that you've posted 'just' since March 12th - this month - has been nothing but the "cover-up".**

**Yes, being disabled gives one an advantage to notice the same pattern over and over and over for almost 5 years now.**

**You are ever writing EXTRA LONG posts to make up for your obvious LACK OF CHRIST - and THAT I TRIED TO WARN YOU ABOUT LAST OCTOBER. AND NOT FOR ME, BECAUSE I DON'T NEED A FORUM --- WHEREAS WITHOUT THIS FORUM - YOU HAVE NOTHING.**

I'd rather have a slightly "not so polite" Doctrinally Correct person on my website than nasty warlords or polite heretics or pandering PC people.

YOU are why so many don't post here anymore and the few posters who have made of themselves your personal bouncers.

It is and has been YOU and up until 3 years ago - since certain posts were deleted - YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE BEING NASTY TO POSTERS.

Plain English with no big words - so that ALL can understand me.

A good Pastor makes for a good Church and the opposite holds true also for those who abuse their "authority" !!!

CHRIST JESUS IS NOT THE FOUNDATION OF THIS WEBSITE - IT IS BUILT AROUND THE EXALTATION OF A MAN. IF REVIVAL 'AS UNTO THE LORD' HAD BEEN THE SOLE AIM AND NOT THE GLORIFICATION AND CRUELTY OF MAN HERE - THE BACKING WOULD BE THROUGH THE ROOF.

THIS SITE HAS BEEN TO THE GLORY OF A MAN - AND NOT FOR JESUS ONLY OR ALONE.

HOW DARE YOU JUDGE OR SPEAK TO ANYONE THE WAYS YOU HAVE, FOR GOING ON FIVE YEARS NOW ?

THIS is what needs to be exposed here and that day is coming - because HE WILL NOT SHARE HIS GLORY WITH AN OTHER AND WILL NOT ALLOW HIS SHEEP TO BE CONSISTANTLY BEATEN DOWN - NOR HIS DEPARTED PASTORS USED TO PROMOTE YOUNG MEN WHO WON'T GO THROUGH THE HELL THAT THEY DID, TO GET THE SERMONS THEY DELIVERED FROM THEIR TRIED-HEARTS !

THE FARCE OF IT ALL - IS THAT THE "GREAT" MEN OF GOD WHO'S SERMONS WERE USED TO PROMOTE THIS SITE, ARE BEING USED HERE TO PROMOTE ONE MAN WHO'S SIGNED ON A "BOUNCER" TO DO HIS VERY DIRTY WORK OF BEATING UP ON SISTERS AND SENSITIVE MEN --- WHEREAS PRIOR TO LATE 2005 - HE'D BEA



T THEM HIMSELF ALSO.

The Exodus started this past week with me over the Deity of Christ. You will destroy anyone here that shows you for what you

([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id10214&forum35&start0&viewmode=flat&order0](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id10214&forum35&start0&viewmode=flat&order0)) LACK.

Ezekiel 13:19 And will ye pollute Me (saith the LORD) among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread (or a "name" or "position"), to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?"

Again - I asked you last May to ban me but STOP TREATING PEOPLE THIS WAY - BECAUSE WITHOUT PEOPLE - THERE WOULDN'T BE A WEBSITE.

"STOP THE SLANDER" WAS WHAT I POSTED ([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id18396&forum45&start50&viewmode=flat&order0](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id18396&forum45&start50&viewmode=flat&order0)) BY OSWALD SMITH (here), WHEN I ASKED TO BE BANNED LAST YEAR - FOR THAT REASON - BUT THAT YOU DIDN'T CATCH - OBVIOUSLY - BUT CATCH IT NOW - THESE PEOPLE ARE GOD'S SHEEP.

IF YOU WANT TO BAN ME - BAN ME - BUT LEAVE THESE OTHERS ALONE AND GO AFTER THOSE WHO DENY HIS DEITY AND DIE TO SELF YOURSELVES BY CEASING THIS ACCUSING OF ANYONE ELSE OF "PRIDE", WHEN THIS WHOLE SITE HAS BEEN RUN BY THE PRIDE OF MEN.

I, just for one, have not seen the HUMILITY OF CHRIST FROM THE LEADERSHIP SINCE SEARCHING THESE "CORRECTING" POSTS SINCE 2003 !

The practice ---- BAN THEM AND THEN LIE ABOUT THEM TO COVER FOR YOURSELVES has gone on long enough .

It's not unforgiveness in the least - but ENOUGH people have been hurt now - ENOUGH of His Sheep have been scattered under a Pretense of "The Old Paths".

**The "Ancient Paths" is (<http://artkatzministries.org/ask-for-the-ancient-paths/>) Our God & Savior Himself !**

**Heavy Handed Leadership = Pompous not Pious - 'Self'-Serving, not Servants of Christ !**

The paranoia you've always felt is not because the enemy is after a "righteous cause" but because of the treatment of His Sheep - His WORD - and use of The Classics, etc. for self-promoting ends and for NOT defending HIM here.

Had it been for Jesus and Jesus alone - you'd all have NO FEARS - nor reason to.

That 'will' come out in The End.

[https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id=22307&forum=35&start=30&34](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=22307&forum=35&start=30&34)

[https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id=21739&forum=35&start=0&viewmode=flat&order=0](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id=21739&forum=35&start=0&viewmode=flat&order=0)

**You can rule by LOVE or by continuing this practice of trying to make people 'fear' you all.**

**Pro 29:25 "The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be Safe." ---- EVEN IF HE/SHE MUST STAND OR BE ALONE UNTIL HE COMES.**

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/3/16 17:51**

I am broken hearted.. beyond what words could describe!

There is nothing in God's word, or in "Polemic Theology" that permits such vitriolic language.

The bud was about to blossom.

Diane

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/16 18:12

Quote:

-----I am broken hearted.. beyond what words could describe!  
-----

I'm not. I bless God that the grand unmasking has begun. The unruly, spiteful poison held in check all these years is now bubbling to the surface.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/3/16 18:12

I have **locked** this thread.

To all people who cannot just post edifying topics and have problems with moderators or sermonindex in general I ask th at you perhaps move on from "not" participating in the sermonindex forums.

It is sad to argue and waste time on a internet forum. People from over 50 countries weekly are viewing the forums and what everyone is posting. I am sure many are not understanding why people are posting such threads.

Please keep posting more towards the sermon materials on the website and scriptures toward edifying.