

**General Topics :: The Diotrephes Syndrome & Nicolaitinism****The Diotrephes Syndrome & Nicolaitinism - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/1/31 16:53**

I was curious enough if anyone can bear witness or contradict this with the word. In short I was hoping for in depth examination.

I know many people are very loyal to other men they have perceived to have had "divine right" not in a papal sense...but like king David or something. But John the baptist was greater then David...and those born of the Spirit are greater then him so I guess that point is moot. Still it is very hard for some to separate their loyalties if they have "bowed the knee" to GOD and then also to a man, because it would require acknowledgment that their submission to GOD has been put on the same level as with man, rather submitting in love in the fear of GOD alone, like Israel when Zephaniah reproved them saying "Those who worship and swear oaths by the LORD, But who also swear by Milcom;" Zephaniah 1:5 (milcom means leader or ruler).

I think the doctrine of the NICOLATIN'S has infected most in the world who claim The Name Jesus Christ. (that amounts to blasphemy, because Jesus hates it)

Nico (to conquer) Laitin (the body of the church)

I short, many people define a difference between worshiping GOD in Spirit and in Truth...and "helping HIM out professionally" which starts to position some to assume they are something when apart from Christ they are nothing....THE GOAL in Christ (who is no respecter of men is to be in true unity in the bond of peace...loving others as your self, while honoring GODs love for them above your own)

Truth is if you are in Christ, and HE is in you then HE is the one producing the fruit. HE is the only good shepherd...(we have no need for man to teach us) (call no man father...or papa 'whatever')

True 'Ministry' is onto The LORD...to be in conflict with ones self...and to obey GOD The FATHER and learn from it like Jesus did...READ HEBREW 5:8"

I also was reading an article called "The Diotrephes Syndrome" ...here is the link

<http://www.thefaithfulword.org/diotrephes.html>

it relates to the WORD revelation in 3 John 1:9-11 which says

"I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God."

It was a very sobering article that grieved me to think that the church is being choked from within.

(<http://www.thefaithfulword.org/diotrephes.html>) Faithfulword

Re: The Diotrephes Syndrome & Nicolaitinism - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/1/31 17:12

Please READ the link before you reply...it is what stirred me to discuss this.

Re: The Diotrephes Syndrome & Nicolaitinism - posted by ReverendRich, on: 2009/1/31 18:44

I love to read the discussions on this site but I never feel as compelled to comment as I do now.

You are in rebellion to church authority, men have always been given the role to serve as lights for Christ, some as apostles, prophets, teachers.

Remember it was the doctrine of the apostles they studied in Acts!

Christ commanded that you subject yourself under those who guard your soul in such a way their job is pleasing rather t

then a burden.

These days are different than first century life, and thus call for more modern conventions in the way of leadership methods, and order in the church.

Would there be great meeting places, chapels, Cathedrals without orderly leadership? Would not Jesus design the idea of fortresses of refuge for HIS people in these dark days? Should there not be a way to set watchmen over to protect the sheep?

I dare say your ideas are dangerous and undermine the authority of the church.

The Diotrephes Syndrome - posted by swordfish7, on: 2009/1/31 20:35

Hey there DoulosQuinn! I read the article you linked to and found it spot on! It saddens me to think that men acted in this manner at the very inception of the church and that they still act that way now. Such "leadership" is so opposite the loving servanthood that Christ modeled and desired for His church.

I am not sure why ReverendRich was so upset about your post. That reaction caught me off guard. Maybe I am missing what you are trying to say, but I think you are just saying that leadership is supposed to be servanthood instead of dictatorship. Am I wrong?

Re: The Diotrephes Syndrome - posted by RobertW (), on: 2009/1/31 20:58

Quote:

-----Nico (to conquer) Laitin (the body of the church)

We have discussed this before. We simply cannot say with certainty that this is in fact the meaning of this word.

Re: The Diotrephes Syndrome - posted by ReverendRich, on: 2009/1/31 21:46

Heresy comes from the word to divide...this guys twisting of the word is intending to cause discord between the people and those chosen by God to lead them.

Can one of the moderators lock this dangerous thread up?

Someone I have seen as the most reasonable and like minded, crsschk would you cut this post, or at least expose it?

Re: , on: 2009/1/31 21:57

I thank God for this thread. The evil spirit of roman catholicism is alive and well in modern evangelical circles. The Church is not a corporate pyramid with the "office" of "pastor" on top. The elders are to serve the church, among the brethren, not to be over them. There are only two passages from the KJV translation that could be used to even argue the modern clergy-laity system.

How men love long robes and authoritative titles. We need to complete the reformation and get back to the New Testament.

-Jim

Re: , on: 2009/1/31 21:59

Quote:
-----Christ commanded that you subject yourself under those who guard your soul in such a way their job is pleasing rather than a burden.

I want to add to my last post, in all humility, that this is quite a stretch of the word of God.

-Jim

Re: The Diotrephes Syndrome & Nicolaitinism - posted by crsschk (), on: 2009/1/31 23:08

The elders therefore among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according unto God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock. 1Pe 5:1-3 (RV)

1Pe 5:1-4 -

Here we may observe,

I. The persons to whom this exhortation is given - to the presbyters, pastors, and spiritual guides of the church, elders by office, rather than by age, ministers of those churches to whom he wrote this epistle.

II. The person who gives this exhortation - the apostle Peter: *I exhort*; and, to give force to this exhortation, he tells them he was their brother-presbyter or fellow-elder, and so puts nothing upon them but what he was ready to perform himself. He was also *a witness of the sufferings of Christ*, being with him in the garden, attending him to the palace of the high-priest, and very likely being a spectator of his suffering upon the cross, at a distance among the crowd, Act_3:15. He adds that he was also *a partaker of the glory* that was in some degree revealed at the transfiguration (Mat_17:1-3), and shall be completely enjoyed at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Learn, 1. Those whose office it is to teach others ought carefully to study their own duty, as well as teach the people theirs. 2. How different the spirit and behaviour of Peter were from that of his pretended successors! He does not command and domineer, but exhort. He does not claim sovereignty over all pastors and churches, nor style himself *prince of the apostles, vicar of Christ, or head of the church*, but values himself upon being an *elder*. All the apostles were elders, though every elder was not an apostle. 3. It was the peculiar honour of Peter, and a few more, to be the witnesses of Christ's sufferings; but it is the privilege of all true Christians to be partakers of the glory that shall be revealed.

III. The pastor's duty described, and the manner in which that duty ought to be performed. The pastoral duty is three-fold :-

1. *To feed the flock*, by preaching to them the sincere word of God, and ruling them according to such directions and discipline as the word of God prescribes, both which are implied in this expression, *Feed the flock*.

2. The pastors of the church must *take the oversight thereof*. The elders are exhorted to do the office of bishops (as the word signifies), by personal care and vigilance over all the flock committed to their charge.

3. They must be *examples to the flock*, and practise the holiness, self-denial, mortification, and all other Christian duties, which they preach and recommend to their people. These duties must be performed, *not by constraint*, not because you must do them, not from compulsion of the civil power, or the constraint of fear or shame, but from a willing mind that takes pleasure in the work: *not for filthy lucre*, or any emoluments and profits attending the place where you reside, or any perquisite belonging to the office, *but of a ready mind*, regarding the flock more than the fleece, sincerely and cheerfully endeavouring to serve the church of God; *neither as being lords over God's heritage*, tyrannizing over them by compulsion and coercive force, or imposing unscriptural and human inventions upon them instead of necessary duty, Mat_20:25, Mat_20:26; 2Co_1:24. Learn, (1.) The eminent dignity of the church of God, and all the true members of it. These poor, dispersed, suffering Christians were the flock of God. The rest of the world is a brutal herd. These are an orderly flock, redeemed to God by the great Shepherd, living in holy love and communion one with another, *according to the will of God*. They are also dignified with the title of God's *heritage* or *clergy*, his peculiar lot, chosen out of the common multitude for his

own people, to enjoy his special favour and to do him special service. The word is never restricted in the New Testament to the ministers of religion. (2.) The pastors of the church ought to consider their people as *the flock of God, as God's heritage*, and treat them accordingly. They are not theirs, to be lorded over at pleasure; but they are God's people, and should be treated with love, meekness, and tenderness, for the sake of him to whom they belong. (3.) Those ministers who are either driven to the work by necessity or drawn to it by filthy lucre can never perform their duty as they ought, because they do not do it willingly, and with a ready mind. (4.) The best way a minister can take to engage the respect of a people is to discharge his own duty among them in the best manner that he can, and to be a constant example to them of all that is good.

IV. In opposition to that filthy lucre which many propose to themselves as their principal motive in undertaking and discharging the pastoral office, the apostle sets before them the crown of glory designed by the great shepherd, Jesus Christ, for all his faithful ministers. Learn, 1. Jesus Christ *is the chief shepherd* of the whole flock and heritage of God. He bought them, and rules them; he defends and saves them for ever. He is also the chief shepherd over all inferior shepherds; they derive their authority from him, act in his name, and are accountable to him at last. 2. This chief shepherd will appear, to judge all ministers and under-shepherds, to call them to account, whether they have faithfully discharged their duty both publicly and privately according to the foregoing directions. 3. Those that are found to have done their duty shall have what is infinitely better than temporal gain; they shall receive from the grand shepherd a high degree of everlasting glory, *a crown of glory that fadeth not away*.

Matthew Henry
(*Italics extant*)

Re: The Diotrephes Syndrome & Nicolaitinism - posted by crsschk (), on: 2009/1/31 23:58

Read the article linked earlier. It certainly is apparent enough that there are those who disregard these things sadly.

"Ambition

It is unclear whether Diotrephes was the formal elder (overseer/pastor) of the church or whether he simply desired to be especially prominent. In reality, this is irrelevant because it is equally true of pastors or laymen that they can become "ambitious for the place of first distinction." Ambitious for preeminence in the church is entirely different than being desirous to do the work of shepherding/pastoring. Ambition for prestige and control is what leads to "lording it over the flock" (1 Peter 5:3), that is, to become the monarch of the flock and the object of adoration, and it might be added, some small amount of intimidating influence. Contrast that with being desirous to do the work of pastor, which is to dedicate oneself to service, to study, to counseling, and to openly debating and refuting doctrinal errors."

Quote:
-----Truth is if you are in Christ, and HE is in you then HE is the one producing the fruit. HE is the only good shepherd...(we have no need for man to teach us) (call no man father...or papa 'whatever')

This is unfortunately a great misnomer, not Christ but that we have no need of being instructed.

Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

1Co 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1Co 14:19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

1Ti 4:11 These things command and teach.

2Ti 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,
etc.

The derivatives of this verse;

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. 1Jn 2:27

Has the preface of *but*, just that which was before it;

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. (1Jn 2:26)

Ye need not that any man teach you - The Gnostics, who pretended to the highest illumination, could bring no proof that they were divinely taught, nor had they any thing in their teaching worthy the acceptance of the meanest Christian; therefore they had no need of that, nor of any other teaching but that which the same anointing teacheth, the same Spirit from whom they had already received the light of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. Whatever that taught, they needed; and whatever those taught whose teaching was according to this Spirit, they needed. St. John does not say that those who had once received the teaching of the Divine Spirit had no farther need of the ministry of the Gospel; no, but he says they had no need of such teaching as their false teachers proposed to them; nor of any other teaching that was different from that anointing, i.e. the teaching of the Spirit of God. No man, howsoever holy, wise, or pure, can ever be in such a state as to have no need of the Gospel ministry: they who think so give the highest proof that they have never yet earned of Christ or his Spirit.

Adam Clarke

I do not know that there is any reason for one abandonment to another. That there is both the *Nicolation error* as well as those who took what the Lord overemphasized to Peter, to heart;

And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep

Better clarify that ... Scripture needs to be taught and instructed, just a search on *teachers* alone, as 'gift's', as warning of the more severe accountability, of *false* teachers presupposing true. As systems and abuses and hierarchies, manipulating, controlling ... all those things derided and hated by the Lord, all are true and ongoing but that doesn't necessitate that due to this the original and right intention is done away with.

I fail to see why any of this should be a matter of contention.

Edit: This is very timely as well;

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id22071&forum34&post_id&refreshGo) MUST READ: Visible Churches Warned by J.C. Ryle

Re: - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/2/1 2:34

I wrote this because I am grieved that pursuit of preeminence on the part of men by unduly usurping Christ's authority, flattery, bowing to men...flattery, false discipline, lording over, has crippled the saints who should not be suppressed.

Rev. Rich?

I fear GOD not men. HE above should be honored...but I honor HIM by responding to HIS love as far as I have been changed...through where HE has appointed me to share in HIS sufferings and share in the power of HIS resurrection. HE desires Christ in me The HOPE of glory, to preeminent in all that I am (not to other men who must worship GOD, and not me) when I honor the LORD, worship the LORD, serve the LORD men should glorify GOD not me...they should be thinking upon Christ and all that HE can do not "boy this guy is pious...why doesn't GOD love me as much"

Crsschk:

Natural men can't understand the things of GOD. (no one know the mind of the man but himself...likewise no one knows GOD but The Spirit) It is the "COMFORTER who will teach us all things concerning Christ" I do not see any conflict with the verses you shared...Jesus supped with the FATHER in Timothy...Christ in Timothy the HOPE of Glory, as treasure in an earthen jar was poured out where HE saw fit. The only teacher we can have is GOD. HE is the ONLY door the only shepherd, we hear HIS voice...HE is still alive...HE is still reigning...HE is still teaching. I have never read the word "Reverend, father, even pastor in the WORD" I think that their were teachers, elders, bishops, prophets, and evangelists ++many more that operated as one body...still do...but we see a counterfeit system now imposed on most people who are ignorant of each members obligation to bring that which the body needs.

jimdied2sin:

I am so grieved I am sick brother, I feel like our hands from sea to shining sea, and beyond are tied up by this. Brothers that can teach and know Jesus are pushed onto pedestals that harm them. Many of the beloved are vexed like Lot, those who with courage step up to speak the truth in love are treated like trouble makers. Wickedness is hidden in the climb to preeminence leaving churches filled with "domesticated saints" that mirrors the false "perpetual adolescence" that is so common...you are a child or an adult...you are natural or spiritual. Christ show us what to do, sheep among wolves let the laying down of our lives be according to your will, and purpose.

RobertW.

Etymology is no big secret nico means "conquer" it is used in many words...some have in stealth given mis-information by implying it is "unclear or unknown" LOOK WHAT IT DOES! I know why Jesus hates it...so do I...I have struggled for years not to hate those that wield this tool of the enemy.

swordfish7

I mean we are to be one...as HE is one...and there are "modern conventions" that are designed to keep us off balance. There are no leaders but Christ (HE does work in our midst thru foolish things, weak things...demonstrating HIS presence in vessels who are overcome then submit to HIS love and obey HIS desire to serve in a pleasing way (without self interest))

LORD

I don't know how to share what YOU are showing me, I can't bear being helpless to make a difference, and respond to resistance by what seem like hidden motives I can't expose. HELP LORD.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2009/2/1 6:45

Quote:
-----RobertW. Etymology is no big secret nico means "conquer" it is used in many words...some have in stealth given mis-information by implying it is "unclear or unknown" LOOK WHAT IT DOES! I know why Jesus hates it...so do I...I have struggled for years not to hate those that wield this tool of the enemy.

Although I am also sympathetic to the fact that there needs to be a change in the way the local church is governed, I am

also aware of how Nicolaitians breaks down and the argument is too uncertain to standardize. We discussed this at length in the (https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id26547&forum40&434) Just who is responsible for this state of affairs? thread. I think you will find it useful in its entirety.

Nothing Perfect -- Here - posted by swordfish7, on: 2009/2/1 8:40

Indeed, human involvement in spiritual institutions inevitably seems to result in sin or defect to the institution. But such is the nature of corporeal life. That in no way negates that God has established pastors-teachers to watch over the doctrine of His institutions and to take the forefront in teaching His flocks.

Feed my sheep, but only if you love Me!

Re: Careful - posted by crsschk (), on: 2009/2/1 10:22

Quote:

-----I fear GOD not men.

Quote:

-----Natural men can't understand the things of GOD. (no one know the mind of the man but himself...likewise no one knows GOD but THE Spirit) It is the "COMFORTER who will teach us all things concerning Christ" I do not see any conflict with the verses you shared...Jesus supped with the FATHER in Timothy...Christ in Timothy the HOPE of Glory, as treasure in an earthen jar was poured out where HE saw fit.

The only teacher we can have is GOD.

Quote:

-----HE is the ONLY door the only shepherd, we hear HIS voice...HE is still alive...HE is still reigning...HE is still teaching. I have never read the word "Reverend, father, even pastor in the WORD" I think that their were teachers, elders, bishops, prophets, and evangelists ++many more that operated as one body...still do...but we see a counterfeit system now imposed on most people who are ignorant of each members obligation to bring that which the body needs.

Brother, I am just as sympathetic and at times outraged at these things as you and others. The acronym WOF alone enough to give a great rise to indignation for the sheer manipulation and twisting, contorting of the scriptures, the bleating of the sheep, the psychological abuse ... Our so called modern day "Prophets" being another, *they* have set themselves up as the oracles of the Lord, abuse and have actually created their own vocabulary derived from the scriptures to further their vain imaginations and dare to speak these things in Gods stead as God speaking. Nicolaitians? Draw off the comparisons of these to the article you linked, it's all there.

My only concern and to belabor the point is that of an *exchange* on the one hand and where things run together on the other. The two isolated bits from your reply above leave an impression and one that others here might also be concerned with, is what can lead to an island alone mindset and if not careful, pride, loss of a grasp of what constitutes true humility and that word that can strike us sideways - submission to authority.

Do take Robert up on his mention there, it is a very good thread and last I checked was still cordial and very edifying,

Fearing God and not man is plain enough but when it comes to the Brethren who are of your own makeup and ... matter, *in spirit and in truth*, where a sense of 'authority' is a given, not as a title, it is easy, I want to say 'natural' to give preference one to another. It may be a 'teacher' but it also may be the simplicity of a child - There have been 14 year olds on this site that have shut my mouth and caused me to consider - It is in moments like that where I am indeed being taught just as well.

Who has authority? Anyone with less pride than myself, with more honesty than I have yet to achieve, whose heart, dem

eanor, proclivities, character, disposition is more knit to the Lord and exemplifies Him, who is Christlike.

Speaking in generalities, the concern again is in flipping this all over and giving rise to a "Me and God" against the world, including our own kind. We would have no need of Paul or the apostles even of the scriptures since they do decidedly teach everything that we need to learn. We could become monk's and live in the desert if this was taken to it's extreme, God being our only teacher. The facts are that the Lord uses each of us to teach each other, even what you are forwarding here is a 'teaching' of sorts, leaning on the error side of things and drawing off of it, exposing it if you will.

Another consideration ... Towards the end of that article;

Then defame and slander their character by adding the charge of anger because those who are passionate about the Word always express emotion sooner or later out of frustration at not being heard so you will always be able to point to some tangible public display of emotion. Oh, never mind that Titus 3 actually defines a factious man as being the one who is introducing destructive and error laden doctrines and who is dividing the fellowship of the church based on improper motives because almost no one is discerning enough in the church to look up the passage on their own, much less properly interpret it in context (hmm, the irony is that while you are falsely accusing the righteous man of being factious Titus 3 actually defines the real factious man as being you). The charge of factiousness itself is sufficient to win the day.

Then, out the door the trouble-making Bible-quoting discerners will go. Most will leave of their own accord anyway, having had enough of their characters being maligned. The few that stick around can easily be sent through a pseudo-church discipline meeting and they too will soon be gone. And since they have nothing they can repent from, they will never return to plague your fellowship again. In fact, this form of ungodly "discipline" might best be characterized by the term "shunning" because its sole goal is to irrevocably destroy fellowship. However, you must never use that term in public because it might draw attention to fact that what you are doing to these innocent individuals really is shunning which is strictly an illegitimate act; we are nowhere called to destroy fellowships but to restore them.

The way the author of this is playing devils advocate and speaking in a third person sort of way makes this a bit ... tortured if not sarcastic in that manner he is using. It's not an accusation per se but it makes things difficult to unravel. Convoluted. It is to shove all the emphasis on to one side and make even the ones 'quoting bible verses' the righteous ones when they are very often the ones in rebellion, contradicting the very statement made earlier, ... *dividing the fellowship of the church based on improper motives.*

My reason for drawing attention to this is for the same things that even 'we', those of us here under the burden of moderating have met time and again, namely misappropriation. Where we attempt best as we can to be patient and long-suffering, as 'unbiased' as we can (a very, very difficult thing at times), allow many things to go on with the hope of considering and again reconsidering - *time* - That great interval of space where things sink down into our fabric and alter us all - All these things and yet we must still keep some order around here and that is where a mindset that is already decided and not to misappropriate it to yourself, is one that will often rise up and thwart these efforts - It is where that word 'shunning' made and always makes me cringe. We have often had no other recourse than to remove some that were overbearing in conduct, more often than not the case and generally speaking, less often over dangerous heresy's and the like. But the accusations have come, threatenings and a whole host of things unprintable even here, things that would amaze and alarm ... but I must tell you that not a one has been 'shunned' even if removed - For a setting such as this the limitations are to what is expressed but it can never paint the whole picture and so even those things leveled or charged must also be taken with an understanding and often enough are cause to reflect even further - Listening to your 'critics' even in their outbursts, the misunderstandings and misappropriations of intent and motive on *both* sides, where we have erred and failed ...

Again, it is more teaching and learning.

If I could go back to the 'prophetic' bunch again and maybe give a stark example of the same things you are distressed about, just as I often am - Remember Todd Bentley? There was no small controversy surrounding this whole thing and page upon page was expressed here during this whole upheaval, this whole supposed 'revival', his antics and deploring conduct, the imaginations run amok ... When it all came crashing down and to our credit and in no way boasting, it was largely met with silence. The majority of us grieved and some of us even concerned greatly even for the man, his family, his separation from his wife ...

I still on occasion find myself praying for him and am just as impressed by one simple factor. His silence. It is impossible to read as much into it as out of it but where I have a great problem even still is what became of these so called (many o

f them) 'apostles' or 'apostolic' ministries that they have appointed themselves as. These same men who came out and put their little stamp of approval, their 'anointing' on Todd and on the whole 'revival' ended up taking this fallacious higher ground and attempted, after the fact, to defend themselves, distance themselves from it all. Whole statements and letters on their 'positions', their best efforts at sincerity and concern for him being washed out with their inability to see just how much their own lack of discernment, their penchant for chucking scripture in favor of "What God is doing" or at best wrenching it all out of context was the very problem in the first place. There were those who wrote long, defending articles in support when it was all so ... exciting and entertaining that fell off a cliff when it blew up. It was and is frankly very pathetic and marries right into these things under discussion - The overt concern was not for the Lord's testimony, but self preservation. None of them came completely clean nor admitted frankly, instead gave a wink and a nod to it, lessening and distancing themselves from any responsibility, if not involvement.

What is more alarming? From what I last observed of it all, these same men were to be the ones to restore him? It is ghastly, compounding the error ... Might great prayer is that the Lord would thwart and keep them far, far away from him. I have far more sympathy and hope for Todd Bentley than these self appointed, self 'anointed' - wind bags (Jud 1:12) and I am at once sorry and not so sorry for putting it so crassly.

Re: - posted by swordfish7, on: 2009/2/1 14:45

I do not think any pastor need feel guilty for disciplining a sinning brother (privately counseling him, then counseling him with witnesses, and finally, having the church vote together to remove the still sinning brother from ordinary fellowship).

However, too numerous to recount are the times I have witnessed people tossed out of the church with no thought given to how to encourage them to repent, or, more often, with no genuine charge of actual sin. In those instances, the charge is always "factiousness" for having disagreed about little things (wrong location for a church conference, which construction company to use, etc). Faction is supposed to be a serious charge of dividing the church away from Christ on the basis of false doctrine. Now-a-days some use it to get rid of those who disagree with leadership over non-doctrinal preferences. Very sad.

Worse, shunning, the cutting off of all relationships, has replaced "discipline." When the church broke fellowship with an unrepentant sinner, they were supposed to treat him like any other sinner on the street, kindly, and always encouraging him to repent, displaying to him the love of Christ. Shunning simply stops all communication cold, no witnessing, no encouraging, no relationship.

If a pastor must discipline an unrepentant sinner, he has no guilt. If a pastor shuns anyone, the guilt is his.

Re: Interesting link - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/2/1 19:40

RobertW:

I guess this has been discussed.

I just wish that we could fix it by acknowledging it...but it grip is deep.

for sure it is sin. (as for the Ester issue I think you shared enough for me to receive it...thanks for the background info)

Csshk:

I am humbled you'd go to such lengths to consider this with me, thanks brother.

swordfish7:

I am glad you see what I am seeing, but there is no Biblical role for "Pastor" to discipline but the church to do this.

Re: The Council of Hell - posted by savannah, on: 2009/2/2 8:39

A.D.200 The Council of Hell

By George Davis

"We need a new plan!" Satan cried, fire darting from his flashing eyes. "Two hundred years we've waged this war, only to be worse off than before. What does the problem seem to be? We smite one, they rise up three? We must tailor-make a plan suited to the weakness of man."

"Ah yes! If I can't destroy it I will pervert it! I will seduce this family God loves so dear!" Satan scoffed, while grasping his hands in disdain as if he were crushing them in his very palms. "I will plan their compromise. Remember Samson. The baffle is as good as won!"

"I will create a counterfeit, a Church to my own liking. We will appeal to man's ambition, his perverted desire to rule. Diotrepes, if you please, had it right after all. I will offer them kingdoms, and entice them with riches; they will usurp the very throne of Christ himself. And all this will be done in the name of God and righteousness. I love it!" Satan shouted, as the hideous groans and sneers of the hordes of hell reverberated through the abyss.

"The greatest among you shall be a servant.' Ha! I'll make these servants into kings and their servanthood into tyranny. And for my masterstroke, these pagan temples that I have built will be their new home. I see it all so clearly now! They will sit in rows, silent, yes, silent at last. Those who turned my world upside-down will sit silently, in rows, entertained. How I have wished it!

"Ah, what greater pain could I inflict upon the creator, than for him to see his children wrapped in chains, worshiping in my temples, surrounded by my idols and led by my pontiff kings."

"You shall have no other gods before me.' Ha!" Satan scoffed. "We will see about that! Greater deceptions than these shall I weave. I'll surround them with the trappings of idolatry and then when they are worshiping, in part they'll worship me!"

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2009/2/2 9:18

Quote:

-----RobertW:

I guess this has been discussed.

I just wish that we could fix it by acknowledging it...but it grip is deep.

It will be useless to strategize. God will have to remedy the problem as we respond rightly to His instructions. Man gets themselves into trouble- but it takes Divine Intervention to get them out. We just need to be sensitive to do what God reveals. As Ron Bailey said in the Q & A session in Greenock; "I'm not a strategist, I'm a foot soldier. I simply have to do as I am told." Truly at this point it is all we can do. We do not have the required wisdom or the necessary favor with men to fix this problem.

Re: - posted by swordfish7, on: 2009/2/2 10:15

Quoted from DuolosQuinn: "swordfish7: I am glad you see what I am seeing, but there is no Biblical role for 'Pastor' to discipline but the church to do this."

The abuses? Yes I have seen them.

Pastors? Are they too not a part of the body? Are they not members of the church? Whatever the church is charged to do (i.e. discipline), so too are the pastors charged to do, to model, to lead in by their example, and to teach to the rest of the church so they may do also.

Christ taught the church to do Matthew 18 discipline, and so the pastors are obligated to teach it the church by example and by instruction.

The presence of abusers in the pastorate does not give us warrant to discontinue either the pastorate or Matthew 18 discipline. It does give us warrant to correct the abusers (with discipline if necessary) and to better educate, train, and select our pastors.

Re: , on: 2009/2/2 10:57

Quote:
-----The presence of abusers in the pastorate does not give us warrant to discontinue either the pastorate or Matthew 18 discipline

Sure, but the word of God does make a good case against the current Evangelical/Roman Catholic "pastorate" system none the less.

Quote:

Matthew 23:6-12 YLT
they love also the chief couches in the supper, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
and the salutations in the market-places, and to be called by men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
`And ye -- ye may not be called Rabbi, for one is your director -- the Christ, and all ye are brethren;
and ye may not call your father on the earth, for one is your Father, who is in the heavens,
nor may ye be called directors, for one is your director -- the Christ.
And the greater of you shall be your ministrant,
and whoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled, and whoever shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Is it then OK if we have our directors and call them "Pastor" or "Reverend" instead of Rabbi? Yeah, some Godly brethren, more Godly than I, may do this innocently but the overall rotten fruit of it bears testimony to the warnings in the word of God.

-Jim

Re: The Calf-Path - posted by savannah, on: 2009/2/2 17:46

The Calf-Path

by Sam Walter Foss (1858-1911)

One day, through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home, as good calves should;
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail, as all calves do.

Since then three hundred years have fled,
And, I infer, the calf is dead.

But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs my moral tale.

The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bellwether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him, too,
As good bellwethers always do.

And from that day, o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made,
And many men wound in and out,
And dodged and turned and bent about,
And uttered words of righteous wrath
Because 'twas such a crooked path;
But still they followed—do not laugh—
The first migrations of that calf,
And through this winding wood-way stalked
Because he wobbled when he walked.

This forest path became a lane,
That bent, and turned, and turned again.
This crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with his load
Toiled on beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles in one.
And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of that calf.

The years passed on in swift fleet.
The road became a village street,
And this, before men were aware,
A city's crowded thoroughfare,
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis;
And men two centuries and a half
Trod in the footsteps of that calf.

Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed that zigzag calf about,
And o'er his crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent.
A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.
They follow still his crooked way,
And lose one hundred years a day,
For thus such reverence is lent
To well-established precedent.

A moral lesson this might teach
Were I ordained and called to preach;
For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done.
They follow in the beaten track,
And out and in, and forth and back,

And still their devious course pursue,
To keep the path that others do.

They keep the path a sacred groove,
Along which all their lives they move;
But how the wise old wood-gods laugh,
Who saw the first primeval calf!
Ah, many things this tale might teach —
But I am not ordained to preach.

Re: - posted by swordfish7, on: 2009/2/2 19:17

Quoted from jimdied2sin, "Sure, but the word of God does make a good case against the current Evangelical/Roman Catholic 'pastorate' system none the less."

It is possible your dispute with the RC system properly runs much deeper than its form. It calls its pastorate "priests" for very good reason (from its own perspective). But I would not think to dispute with them on that topic, as the means of salvation is a greater priority matter, and one of eternal significance.

Re: Church council in hell - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/2/2 22:19

Savannah:
Wow that first poem was it!

Swordfish"

Quote:
-----The abuses? Yes I have seen them. Pastors? Are they too not a part of the body? Are they not members of the church? Whatever the church is charged to do (i.e. discipline), so too are the pastors charged to do, to model, to lead in by their example, and to teach to the rest of the church so they may do also. Christ taught the church to do Matthew 18 discipline, and so the pastors are obligated to teach it the church by example and by instruction. The presence of abusers in the pastorate does not give us warrant to discontinue either the pastorate or Matthew 18 discipline. It does give us warrant to correct the abusers (with discipline if necessary) and to better educate, train, and select our pastors.

How do you discipline a Diotrephus? How can pastors be part of the body, when they are not in the bible? The parts are what they are! In a real body parts are named- finger, foot. But you don't tape a knife on your finger and then years later when it comes of the body think it was ever a part. As for Priests, if Christ is THE PRIEST can one liken that to taping additional paper heads on a body and have them function properly? Our example is not other men but "to walk as HE walked."

RobertW:

Quote:
-----As Ron Bailey said in the Q & A session in Greenock; "I'm not a strategist, I'm a foot soldier. I simply have to do as I am told."

I agree, but who tells us should be The LORD through HIS WORD with the witness of the HOLY Spirit, that is who we should obey even when a Diotrephus has pressed us to submit to him.

jimdied2sin:

Quote:
-----but the overall rotten fruit of it bears testimony to the warnings in the word of God.

Amen there should be a reformation like that of the Moravian's who overcame by love

Re: Pastors not biblical? - posted by swordfish7, on: 2009/2/3 10:54

I suspect I have wandered into an old discussion here. When DoulosQuinn wrote, "How can pastors be part of the body, when they are not in the bible?" it is my suspicion that he already knows that the Greek word "poimen" from Ephesians 4 :11 is the English translation "shepherd" or "pastor."

To argue that the word "pastor" is not in the Bible is akin to arguing that Christ is not in the Bible because the Greek actually calls Him Christos.

But like I said, I suspect you have all been through this before. I would address the question of how to discipline a Diotrephes, but until we agree that pastors / shepherds are indeed biblical, where would be the value in doing so?

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2009/2/3 14:47

brother DoulosQuinn,

I have read the many posts and I hope that what I say comes through with humility and love.

A couple of years ago the Lord began to open up the Word concerning this very subject and through His leading I seen that the modern CEO/Head single pastor church system is not His intent and not how He designed His body to meet together. But the question always becomes... What are you going to do about it? For me, I wanted to shout it out to everyone I seen and engage everyone of my friends into why the church system is corrupt and wrong. There was underlying bitterness and rebellion that I didn't even know was there, but nevertheless was present in my life.

But praise the Lord in His manifest wisdom, He didn't parade me around discussing this issue in churches, instead He saw fit to hide me and refine me. It has been over 2 years and I have been out of the "church" for over a year and I am just now starting to truly see His eternal purpose to sum up all things in Christ. Brother, for me now, it is not about who's meeting right? or do they have a head pastor?, but it's about seeing the Body of Christ through the eyes of the Head. It's about seeing the bride of Christ become the wife, Seeing the Body as a temple that God dwells in, and seeing everyone in the Body participate and partake of one another.

In such things, I believe, the Lord is concerned about. And what I have seen is that there are many who are hungry and thirsty to see Him move in His Body so that He might truly be the Head in practice and not just doctrine.

I hope that my testimony may help you to answer some questions you may have.

phil

sword fish - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/2/9 3:33

OK I had engineering homework like you would not believe...I finally had a minute to read and see that bomb...yes I know the word poimen, and Christos but though Christ is in the Bible, the role that "pastor" has come to mean is totally contrary to poimen...the WORD reveals as such

1Pe 5:1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

1Pe 5:3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

1Pe 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

OK established ...so Barna (Mr. promote seeker friendly great falling away) even wrote in the book "Pagan Christianity" how most of the modern church resembles what it was influenced by in the world, so has lost its first estate.

I relate it just like the altar is to be made with stones undefiled by the tools of man, the altar of living stones fit together into one body. with "nails given by ONE Shepherd" Eccles.

Re: Love HIM - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2009/2/9 3:37

Yes I know what your saying. Praise GOD, maybe it is a martyr opportunity that is needed.

Disciplining a Diotrepheus...

Does any one remember Joash? 2 Chronicles 24:17-22

How being a descendant of Jezebel yet found favor from GOD, by the high priest who spared him from his own grandma ?

good things happened...until the man of GOD under pinning reverence was taken by The LORD (intentional?)

Then in the end how it says he was flattered into being manipulated to the point he killed that same high priest's son for speaking the truth with courage...the prophet was despised because of the respect of persons, or lack thereof and Diotrepheus' types establish a hierarchy where they can maintain a firm reign by exploiting GOD's reign as "through him" to the rest.

The answer is definable in one word I dare not drop lightly, Icabod. (I think Icabod is the only treatment...like chemotherapy)

GOD does not despise the broken and contrite.

In essence the church seems to me to be despised...like Esau's birthright, or Israel when HE sold them for no gain.

Now women and children rule, and he has established false shepherds to isolate some purity and drive it into an ark of sorts, or a cave in Engedi to bring destruction that the Diotrepheus' unbelief eggs GOD into, so GOD can be glorified as HE was with Pharaoh...if HE never changes applies here I think that is what comes this way.