

Articles and Sermons :: Having a Right Doctrine but Wrong Spirit - brother Greg

Having a Right Doctrine but Wrong Spirit - brother Greg - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/12/7 8:41

There is a saying that says: "You can be so right you can become wrong." Sadly some in church history were 100 % right in their doctrines but in their practice they were wrong. The goal of the Christian life is to know and love God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, receiving eternal life through the Son, and resulting in a glorious and personal relationship with the Triune God, where we love Him, worship Him and serve Him, and where we experience His love and His care for us.

Many scholars and theologians write about God but they do not experientially know Him.²⁴⁸ Doctrines coming from such men may well be tainted by "the evil one" trying to deceive us. Good doctrines can provide us with foundational principles based on a correct interpretation of the Word of God. Only the most basic doctrines are necessary to help unify the body of Christ, which is the Church. Too many doctrines²⁴⁹ divide without being essential to the faith. Good doctrines are helpful, but growing in discipleship is walking in obedience²⁵⁰ to the Lord Jesus Christ daily. "Christians now choose churches based upon particular doctrines, and having the right theology has become the most important thing rather than having the right lifestyle, all because a Biblical model has been abandoned."²⁵¹

A re-reading of the New Testament with this as our mindset helps us to see clearly that the early thinking and life style of Christians has changed in the Western world. The effects of humanism, secularism, materialism, and "entertainment" has brought doctrines of Satan to the Church which is resulting in a "counterfeit" church accepting such doctrines as ordaining profane "Ministers" who are living in sin and practicing sin, and other new doctrines such as the prosperity doctrines and denying the power and miracles of God. Witnessing for the Church in the west has become an "exercise" of not offending the freedom of other faiths and keeping our mouths closed. In the Western world we truly have become the lukewarm Church that Jesus spoke about. He will spit us out of His mouth.²⁵² We must return to the principles and doctrines of the early Church as a way of life²⁵³ and as a living response to the "unchangeable" truth of the Word of God.

"The Pharisees sat in the chair of Moses, which meant that they had gone to Bible colleges and got their doctorate degrees and had a lot of accurate knowledge. Jesus even told His disciples to do all that the Pharisees taught. So what the Pharisees taught must have been right. But they did not obey what they knew to be right."²⁵⁴ If we do not combine our knowledge with obedience it will bring spiritual death and disaster to all around us. Salvation is not knowing a doctrine or understanding all the nuances of salvation. Salvation is experiencing the very person, the Lord Jesus Christ.²⁵⁵ When Paul the Apostle preached the Gospel he did not have a specific five point message but rather preached the person of Christ, presenting Him to the people.²⁵⁶ "Not a doctrine, or a religion, or a catechism, but a Person, an exceedingly great and precious Person, this Preeminent Christ."²⁵⁷

"If Christ is all to you, you are Christians; and I, for one, am ready to give you the right hand of brotherhood. I do not mind what place of worship you attend, or by what distinctive name you may call yourselves, we are brethren; and I think, therefore, that we should love one another. If, my friends, you cannot embrace all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter to what denomination they may belong, and cannot regard them as your brethren in the Lord, and as belonging to the universal Church, you have not hearts large enough to go to heaven."²⁵⁸ And may this be the experience of all those who claim to have the right doctrines on the character of God, that they will represent God's love, unity and all aspects of His character in accordance with the Word of God. The proof will be by "the way we love one another."²⁵⁹ The world needs to know that we are His disciples.²⁶⁰

²⁴⁸ John 17:3, 1 John 3:6

²⁴⁹ There was a danger in the early Church of those who looked into many doctrines but were not living in obedience to the simplicity of the faith in Jesus Christ and being led of His Spirit. (see 1 Timothy 1:3-4, 1 Timothy 6:3-4).

²⁵⁰ James 1:22

²⁵¹ David Servant

²⁵² Revelation 3:15-16

²⁵³ 1 Timothy 6:3

²⁵⁴ Zac Poonen

255 John 5:40
256 Colossians 1:28, Acts 8:5
257 Chip Brogden
258 C.H. Spurgeon
259 Galatians 5:6
260 John 17:23

Re: Having a Right Doctrine but Wrong Spirit - Greg Gordon - posted by RobertW (), on: 2012/12/7 10:11

Good thoughts dear brother. I keep coming back to this subject over and over again. I have observed how that at Ephesus Jesus spoke of how, "...thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars", but then they were warned in the strongest of terms that they were about to have their lampstand removed. Why? They had left their first (protos) love. Peter describes to us why this happens. He gives a list of things we are to add to our faith ending in "brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love." And then he goes on to say, "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." (2 Peter 1)

When we get a bad spirit and in turn are devoid of the love of God it can be traced directly to this reality, "...and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." I could shout this with 10 megaphones and it would not be loud enough. When we get to the place where we are looking down our noses at people with a bad spirit we need personal revival. Ephesus was real good at finding fault, but they had lost the very love of God. Jesus warned them to repent of face the consequences. Why?

Because a person or a church that names the name of Christ is disqualified for the practice once the love of God is gone. They become a false testimony of Jesus Christ. What good is a fireless lampstand in a dark room? It is good for nothing but to stumble people. So rather than have a dead, cold, loveless, fireless church in the midst of a dark world, he simply plucks it up, removes it. Why? Because it is contributing to the problems of society by maligning the testimony of God and hindering the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. People are given more excuses as to why they refuse Christ than they already lean on. They have enough already, God does not need a loveless, compassionless, church of Christian contributing to their rebellion.

So we have to stay focused on the fact that we were at one time purged from our sins. At one time we probably could not add 2+2 doctrinally and someone had to be loving and patient with us as we grew. I was recently in prayer and I felt the Lord speak into my heart, "I care not as much about how one can see the clearest through the dark glass as I care about you loving one another." When we first got saved and God's love came in, we loved everybody and was merciful. But knowledge puffs up. We learn a few things and like school children we risk starting mocking our peers for not knowing things that we know. It is childishness all grown up and spiritualized.

God is concerned most about how we love one another. Everything else takes a huge back seat to that reality. If we don't have love we are not qualified to do anything for the Lord. And not just a mean-spirited pretend love, but heart-felt compassion. What moves me? What is the driving force behind my actions? Jesus was moved with compassion for man and love for His Father.

Re: , on: 2012/12/7 10:32

I agree wholeheartedly.

Notice Jesus did commend these particular group for not tolerating Jezebels, the practices of the Nicolaitins, etc.

And he warned them that they lost their first love. What is/was their first love? How "loving" they appeared to others? That may be important, but that's not what Jesus was talking about here. Their "first love" was their burning desire and love FOR CHRIST! Had they neglected the secret place of prayer and communion with Him? As Keith Daniel has said, "anyone

ne who has backslidden, fallen into sin, or drifted into error - the root cause is that they began neglecting the quiet time alone in communion with Jesus."

Jesus commended those who called out the false teachers and called them liars. That part seems to get skimmed over quickly. Jesus also told another that he held against them that they tolerated that wicked woman Jezebel who led away the sheep into sin. That seems to get skimmed over too. Never does Jesus say in any of these letters, "but when you found them to be false apostles & called them liars (which he commended), you just weren't 'loving' enough in how you said /did it." never. This is a deceptive false "love focus" from the enemy to slide deception in the house and accept things which God hates & rejects.

The word "Apostasy" comes from the same root as the word "adultery". Does an adulterer totally leave their spouse for another lover? No, not typically. They want their cake and eat it too. They want to hang on to their spouse and let other lovers in their bed. Call them an adulterer and you may get accused of being mean and unloving. But you may also awake them to their error and save them from their sin & deceit.

This goes on long enough in the house called by God's name, & He will stamp "ICHABOD" across the doorway, meaning - "The Glory of God has departed". Seen it many times. Didn't make it that way, but have seen what a Sovereign God will do when this is allowed to carry on in His name. He will depart & take His Spirit with Him. What are we left with when that happens? What kind of "love" then?

Surprisingly, Wilkerson & Ravenhill (& Katz a little) preached MUCH on this subject and lived it as ones with prophetic preaching gifts. Those who called it "love" threw stones and sought to "kill the prophets" (silence them) & protect their own kingdoms. Don't think for a second anyone is above/immune to this. If what we are standing on is anything other than Christ, the solid rock, & His Word, it is all shifting sand on which your house will fall when the storm comes.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/12/7 11:32

Quote:
-----When we get a bad spirit and in turn are devoid of the love of God it can be traced directly to this reality, "...and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

Yes, those who are like this forget the mercy of God in their life. I pray I will never leave such a place and will have compassion on all men. Each religious person has the potential to come to Christ and see the love of God.

My testimony as others is purely: Grace, grace, grace.

and everyday it still is: grace.

Re: Having a Right Doctrine but Wrong Spirit - Greg Gordon, on: 2012/12/7 11:55

When reading the bible, we have to have one motive in mind and that is to hear right. I can still be called out one and still not hear right. I may have heard at the beginning but I may get so wrapped up in my own ways of thinking that I am right I end up with the wrong spirit. Now that doesn't mean that we have the wrong Holy Spirit. The wrong spirit is that we dismiss God's will for our own. We don't listen to His instructions first, we jump in with guns blazing.

I hear a lot of zeal from the forums at times and I hear it within myself at times but I have to stop myself and ask, "Is this coming from me, or is this righteousness speaking forth?". I am constantly judging everything that I do. Thanks Greg for this thread, I think it's important that we understand by what spirit we do the things we do, whether they be God or man.

Re: , on: 2012/12/7 12:34

Quote:
-----Yes, those who are like this forget the mercy of God in their life. I pray I will never leave such a place and will have compassion on all men. Each religious person has the potential to come to Christ and see the love of God. Greg Gordon. SermonIndex.

This cuts right to the heart of the matter. As Robert shared as well. I cannot count the times I have wept remembering that at Christ has forgiven me and at what cost to Him. I truly cannot see the contradiction of putting this remembrance in the forefront of our hearts and minds and only then speaking the truth in the mind of such remembrance. I would to God that I had not stumbled so many times but I know along with countless others that the Lord has supplied abundant grace. Even if choking on the knowledge of my own filthiness I remember the grace of God I find that I am the more broken and the more thankful. The mercy of God is everlasting unto everlasting. Who among us does not know this?

Re: , on: 2012/12/7 15:07

I agree Greg. If someone is in in bad spirit and devoid of love, it can be traced to forgetting the mercy of God in their life. Thank God I was chiefest among all sinners before conversion & even had a period of discouragement which led me to backsliding years after conversion. This way the ever-present reality of the abundance of grace poured out on me is overwhelming and unforgettable.

I also agree we should have compassion on all men and see hope for them coming to Christ. And so the question is merely what is love and what is compassion and how do these things manifest specifically in our lives?

When I was lost, I didn't need someone comforting me in my deception but making me uncomfortable to cause me to examine the reality of my condition. When I was backslidden, my dear brother Sean had the compassion to call me, extend grace, and never skirt the truth for my sake and the Gospel's. I thank God for that kind of true love and compassion. It's the kind Christ & the apostles had and the kind I want, not the kind the seeker sensitive preachers, the emergent church, and the rest of the deceived have. It's true and will abide the fire on judgement day. It's a love sometimes without pats on the back to. Let us strive for rewards only from the one from whom it counts, amen?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/12/7 15:13

Quote:
-----If someone is in in bad spirit and devoid of love, it can be traced to forgetting the mercy of God in their life. Thank God I was chiefest among all sinners before conversion

Perhaps the difference my friend is that perhaps "I am still the chief of sinners" as Paul said. It is all by grace.

Re: - posted by derektina, on: 2012/12/7 15:46

Greg!!!
Praise the Lord! Amen and amen! Deception is subtler than we can imagine... There was a season of terribly licentious and demonically inspired doctrines flooding our body... It appears that this season's delusions include a frightening dependence on "right doctrine". Our family has experienced EXACTLY the warning to the church at Ephesus, as one of the brothers pointed out below..

The gracious balance that Jesus has afforded SI is what has kept our family coming back for feeding. Unfortunately, though we can appreciate a couple of other sites devoted to "sermon" audio and video, it's preoccupation with a particular doctrine creates a "them" and "us" feel to the site that WILL and does sow division in the body!

"GRACE and truth".... characterises His body...

Cristina

Re: , on: 2012/12/7 15:55

I am not still the chiefest among all sinners. I still sin, and is still all by grace that I walk, but I am not what I was. Hopefully you are not either. Let's not get into semantics here, but I am not what I was. God gave me a new heart and made me a new creation. He wiped the slate clean in His blood. I am still not what I will be when he returns, but I am not what I was. By His Grace, I am being changed & conformed into His image day by day, glory to glory, grace upon grace. Not grace to go on sinning at will, but to be changed by His grace and grow as I die daily. No matter what I say, you will somehow dissect or disagree with it because you want to keep your false teachers on the pedestal you have created and lock/reject/erase anyone who calls it into question. Think about that brother. You are nit-picking. So you ARE still exactly who/what you were before conversion? Have you not been BORN AGAIN? When something is born it is fresh and new. That's the joy of the New Covenant and how it differs from the old. All this to keep Catholics as great examples? Why the dying allegiance?

Re: , on: 2012/12/7 16:05

One way that men have the right doctrine and wrong spirit is that they hold to the doctrine of christian unity and meekness while making false accusations about brothers being angry and slander them when they come sharing a burden of biblical separation. There is a true unity in Christ and there is also a true separation that is commanded. We can error on either side. Selah.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/12/7 16:09

God has been dealing with me quite plainly lately about this very topic. There are a lot of areas of my life where I have, as far as I know, my doctrine straight, but am realizing that those truths that I hold so dear have not yet had the transformational effect on my life that God desires. The word of God should transform us. Jesus said that His words were Spirit and life. His word is living and powerful.

It is possible to be straight as a gun-barrel where doctrine is concerned, but yet be just as empty. When Jesus told us how people would know that we knew Him, he did not say that it would be our adherence to sound doctrine. He said that it would be by the love that we demonstrate toward one another. This is not to say that sound doctrine is unimportant. But the first one to be transformed by revelation of any doctrine should be the one to whom it is revealed. When God knocks on my door with revelation of sound doctrine, He does so that I might be transformed into His image. My teaching of that doctrine is hollow and empty apart from that doctrine transforming my own life.

Any doctrine that is revealed by the Spirit of God, and that I allow to transform my own life first, will serve to cause the love of God to be shed abroad in my life. There are areas of my life where God has so powerfully transformed me. Then there are areas where I realize that I am such a babe in Christ and am so much in need of the transforming work of His Holy Spirit and His word to conform me into His image.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/12/7 16:56

Quote:
-----Any doctrine that is revealed by the Spirit of God, and that I allow to transform my own life first, will serve to cause the love of God to be shed abroad in my life.

Very well said brother. May this reality of the love of God be changing my character also as I read and love the truth.