

General Topics :: Ecumenical....advice

Ecumenical....advice, on: 2005/9/4 0:31

I'm leading a ministry. We are 'ecumenical' for the sake of the gospel.

There are only 2 denominations im worried about serving the most.

Church of Christ and Pentacostal Holiness.

Both say you had to ADD a work to your salvation.

Church of Christ says you MUST be baptized that there is NO WAY around it.

Pentacostal Holiness says you MUST speak in tounges there is NO WAY around it.

Should I allow these to speak at meetings in the schools? (I lead a ministry that in sum up is...'Uniting the Church to reac h the High/Middle schools for Christ, thru the avenue of Christian Club, and must be 100% student led clubs'.

I do believe both parties are saved. But, ugh, I've been trying to wrestle out this situation for a while. Waiting on God for an answer.

So far, I am just gonna concentrate on the churches that i know are good and then when it comes up, face it then. But li ke i'm still iffy on it all.

I would like some advice, and maybe if you know some men of God in the past that did alot for the Glory of God, id like t o know. (About that certain denom. ...example John Wesley=Methodist....id like {person here}= Church of Christ or Pen tacostal holiness).

Amen.

Re: Ecumenical....advice - posted by AsliEren, on: 2005/9/4 0:49

I would say let them be a part of the evangelism effort after making sure they won't try to preach an additional requireme nt to the gospel. It's possible you might be able to ecuminisize them over to the true gospel of Jesus instead of them bri nging you over to their false gospel.

Re:, on: 2005/9/4 7:50

Quote:
 -----I would say let them be a part of the evangelism effort after making sure they won't try to preach an additional requirement to the go spel. It's possible you might be able to ecuminisize them over to the true gospel of Jesus instead of them bringing you over to their false gospel.

Absolutely not. How can we evangelize with a group who doesnt even believe the same gospel?? That makes about as much sense as working together with the Jehovah Witnesses to try to evangelize your neighborhood!

When we band together with other religions in order to reach people then we are evangelizing **our** way, and not God's w ay.

God makes it clear in His Word:

2Co 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteo usness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he t hat believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living

God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

People say "Well, we have to do this or that in order to reach the lost" ... and I say not if it means you have to disobey the Word of God. The ends DO NOT justify the means. And besides that... where is your faith? Doesn't any trust the Lord anymore to use us to reach the lost without having to be disobedient to scripture?

Do you really think the Church of Christ folks will agree to not teaching their doctrine of "salvation"? They are just as sincere about what they believe as you are... and they will want to preach their works salvation.

Your only asking for problems. I would find another way to reach kids than this one. If you have to yoke together with false religions in order to have this ministry, then I'm quite sure that God has something else in mind for you to be doing.

Quote:
-----It's possible you might be able to ecuminize them over to the true gospel of Jesus instead of them bringing you over to their false gospel.

In the ministry God has allowed me to be a part of I have had people say to me "I'm dating this wonderful person"... and I ask "Is this person saved?" ... sometimes I hear "No, but I can win them to the Lord!" That's what the quote above reminds me of. Please don't take offense of this, but what you wrote is terrible advice. I have to reject it strongly on this forum because I don't want someone somewhere to read that and think that it is good advice. If there is scripture to support your position, please present it.

I know this is a strong response I have written, and I DO NOT want this considered to be a personal attack. It is NOT. I consider this to be a very serious thing, and it is my desire to see the original poster be as used of God as he can be in reaching the lost. I simply want to point out what scripture says... and not what man thinks.

One last thing... I would not be too quick to lump Pentecostal Holiness Churches in the category of "false religions". I do not agree with their doctrine of tongues, but so far as I know they do not preach any salvation by works doctrines. You may be thinking of Pentecostal Oneness... which T.D. Jakes is part of, as well as the music group Phillips Craig & Dean. They do preach a false gospel, and deny the trinity.

Krispy

Re: dittos Krispy, on: 2005/9/4 9:53

I really don't have anything to add to what Krispy has said. You are bailing a ship that is doomed to sink. Come out from among them and be ye separate, sayeth the Lord 2000 years ago. It is still ringing truth today.

Brother, if you want to make a difference, preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Leave the results up to God.

You might enjoy reading "No Compromise" by Keith Green as well.

In Him,

Lahry

Re:, on: 2005/9/4 14:54

Krispy, very opinionated resently...

I have a few things against what you said.

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:
How can we evangelize with a group who doesn't even believe the same gospel?? That makes about as much sense as working together with the Jeh

ovah Witnesses to try to evangelize your neighborhood!

Do you really think the Church of Christ folks will agree to not teaching their doctrine of "salvation"? They are just as sincere about what they believe as you are... and they will want to preach their works salvation.

You just compared, as many have before. (with other denominations) A part of the body of Christ with a 'look-alike'. You compared JW's with Church of Christ.

I don't know about all the churches in your area, but after someone makes a commitment to Christ it might take like 6 months to 2 years for them to actually get baptised!!!!!! In this denomination, i believe it can be just taken as 'putting more of a focus on baptism' than making it a dogma for salvation. Even though this statement, popular among Church of Christ's, is ignorant, its still truth. "If someone doesn't get baptised and they repent on their death bed and receive Christ, its not my job to judge".

On their part, they say 'YOU MUST BE BAPTISED' (and if you truly stood by that, you'd stay by it with ANY QUESTION) , but they are open to other circumstances. (Not being open to false doctrines, just on 'not knowing everything').

Quote:
-----One last thing... I would not be too quick to lump Pentecostal Holiness Churches in the category of "false religions". I do not agree with their doctrine of tongues, but so far as I know they do not preach any salvation by works doctrines.

"Tongues" its a WORK. Fyi. 'but so far as I know they do not preach any salvation by works (so i guess for the pentacostals tongues dont count as 'works') doctrines.'

They are PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, just instead of baptism its tongues.

So, i would give you ur statement back to you but in a little different.

Modified quote of Krispy to Krispy from me One last thing... I would not be too quick to lump Church of Christ Churches in the category of "false religions". I do not agree with their doctrine of baptism. But i would still classify them Christian by the Blood of the Lamb.

Does anyone else have insight?

Could be reading brail - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2005/9/4 15:46

Quote:

YeshualsMyGd wrote:
Does anyone else have insight?

Don't know if I would class myself in the insight track, or is that the inside track...hmm, well whatever.

In my circle we have a saying what you get saved into is much more important than what you get saved out of. Example, I have a friend who is wonderful baptist believer. Did you see it? He is a 'baptist' believer, he got saved into that environment and now most of his meat is MacArthur. Do you get what I'm saying? I'm trying to say alot without having to type an essay. If you had to ask me, all I could say is that I am a christian with charismatic tagged on the end to show my belief in the manifestation of the charimata. I simply could not tell, because I don't know. We just try and believe the bible.

Going off on another tangent, modes, styles, governmental structures are pretty solid in the outside world, but in this blessed place of SI, there is much scriptural truth. I don't think that I have ever seen any discussion end without the whole b

readth of scriptural truth being weighed by those who particepate. I think that Greg, Mike and Jeremy need praise for the ir willingness to take their hands off and let God work things out as to what is brought forth. Everyones little grasp of trut h adds to a rich tapestry of biblical modus operandi, praise God for all of you. Anyway I digress.

So bringing it to your situation, evangelising of these folk is okay, but it is the discipleship and growth of those disciples which will be affected by your alliance with these two groups.

Re: Could be reading brail, on: 2005/9/4 20:00

Ah, you said the very wonderful word.

"Discipleship".

When that comes up, I would like to 'let the own church do their own discipling, at their own church, not in the school'. A ND if that doesn't really happen, then start up a discipleship training in school, using Ray Comfort and Ron Luce's teachi ngs. Both have extreme truth in their teachings/preaching. And i believe if my generation (i should actually still be in hig h school by my age bracket) take a grasp and HEED the teaching, being a doer of the word then we will see a 'youth rev ival'.

There are SOOO many hoopes to jump thru, so many tests that ONLY GOD can provide the solution.

I.e. Pride of Pastors, Pride of people, hard hearts, no desperation for revival..etc.

Re:, on: 2005/9/5 7:42

YeshualsMyGd...

You have a wonderful way of getting off the topic.

Very quickly... the Church of Christ teaches that you are not saved if you have not been baptised. That is a fact from their own statement of faith. That is a works based salvation. You are misinformed. **And this is not just my opinion.**

Pentecostal Holiness I know for a fact does not teach that you are not saved if you have not spoken in tongues. They do preach Biblical salvation. I know this for a fact because we used to attend a Pentecostal Holiness church back in the day . They DO preach the intial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues... and that is a doctrine that I have a problem with. But their doctrine of salvation is Biblical. This is a fact. **This is not just my opinion.**

Pentecostal Oneness does teach that speaking in tongues is necessary for salvation. This is a works salvation. This is p art of the statement of faith. This is a fact. **This is not just my opinion.**

Now... if it's ok with you... lets get back to the topic of this thread...

It is horrible advise to yoke together with any false religion in order to evangelize people. That is a fact straight from scrip ture. **This is not just my opinion.**

I'm not opinionated... I'm factual. Opinionated is giving advise such as was first given on this thread with absolutely no sc riptural evidence to back it up.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2005/9/5 10:38

Ah, Krispy, i just realized something.

I meant Oneness. Not Holiness. I knew there was a difference, but woops! Yet again.

And everything i have said was on topic. The topic of the thread is 'ecumenical advice'. I have more than one problem and other things to think and pray about.

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

It is horrible advise to yoke together with any false religion in order to evangelize people. That is a fact straight from scripture.

If they are saved, and willing to 'put aside' that belief to preach the gospel, then i have no problem with it. They can keep their leaven in their church, not in mine.

I don't believe that is unbiblical.

Re:, on: 2005/9/6 8:30

Quote:

-----If they are saved, and willing to 'put aside' that belief to preach the gospel, then i have no problem with it. They can keep their leaven in their church, not in mine.

Well, if they preach salvation by works, and they are trusting in baptism for their salvation... they are not saved, and the point is mute.

Right?

Krispy

We preach Christ within us - posted by roadsign (), on: 2005/9/6 12:04

Quote:

-----It is horrible advise to yoke together with any false religion in order to evangelize people.

I think the verse about being yoked together is often used out of context. It refers to partnership with the world, leaning on it, trusting it, thinking like it. We often hear it used to tell a Christian not to marry a non-Christian. It so happens that so many wives discover that their husbands are really unbelievers or only nominal Christians (or vice versa). So suddenly this application won't work, because to divorce would contradict another scripture.

Even if one's spouse is saved, a Christian must be yoked with Christ, not their husbands. So it is with our Christian work. We are to be yoked with Christ. (a big topic) Our participation even in Christian organizations is not to be equated as being yoked with Christ.

You will find yourself very frustrated if you try to find an organization that follows what you believe is right. I'm not sure if it exists, for even if it has the ideal doctrine (in our estimation), there will be people who don't follow it in their lives. Or there will be people who are legalistic within their own ranks - they aren't submitted to the Spirit of Christ, who lack love.. etc

Why not let the Lord guide your steps? Spend a lot of time like Mary who sat at his feet. Then his thoughts, rather than your own convictions, will dominate your choices. As you become more and more like Christ, those who are spiritually hungry will see it in you - no matter where you are or what you are doing.

I have a unique example. I organized and led an evangelistic effort in my town this summer through drama/music and message. Most of the people involved were not saved. Many were unchurched teens, kids, and adults from the community. The one who headed up the props was an atheist. The minister who worked with me was a United Church liberal thinker.

I still am not recovered from the shock of the result. God took over. The town hall was packed with people many who normally never go to church. The message was powerful through words and music. It was a clear clarion call to make a choice. If they continue to follow the world, they will reject Christ who is radically different. The participants all heard the message clearly. God blessed the work beyond imagination. But above all, many had the opportunity to learn that they just can't flow along with the ways of society.

Just bloom where God places you and be as Christ to them. Of course you will not agree with some of the doctrine or behavior of those God may place you with. But through the working together, as iron sharpens iron, you will grow in your character and develop a stronger testimony of Christ within you. Trust God to work in spite of the flaws in doctrine. He can, for it is ultimately Christ himself who saves and ministers to the sinner. We are just very flawed servants.
Diane

Re: We preach Christ within us, on: 2005/9/6 12:21

How can you yoke together with a false religion in order to evangelize? That's the question... and the answer is, you can't. That scripture about being unequally yoked is not so hard to understand. People make it hard to understand.

Krispy

Yeshuaismy Lord, on: 2005/9/6 16:18

loved this quote of yours:

Quote:
-----There are SOOO many hoops to jump thru, so many tests that ONLY GOD can provide the solution. I.e. Pride of Pastors, Pride of people, hard hearts, no desperation for revival..etc.

that was a good word.

my advice on the whole thing?.....stay disciplined in your prayer closet and keep on keeping on in Jesus Name.

Unity of the word and spirit - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2005/9/6 17:02

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:
How can you yoke together with a false religion in order to evangelize? That's the question... and the answer is, you can't. That scripture about being unequally yoked is not so hard to understand. People make it hard to understand.

Krispy

Let me first say that I have completely no idea who these two groups are that you are talking about. They are just names to me.

Secondly let me ask you a question, do you consider these groupings christian but believe different or are they a cult?

Thirdly, if indeed you view them as a cult/unbelievers where do you draw the line between someone who sees scripture different to you and someone who is indeed involved in an a cult or these two groups we are talking about?

The reason that I ask is because over the last while I have been meditating on the relationship between the pharisees a

nd Jesus. The pharisees knew the word backwards (they're Jewish) and most probably forwards and sideways, but when Jesus came along he did not fit into any paradigm of what the messiah should be like.

We can know the word so well and quote all the right scriptures, but if Jesus had to come like he did the first time would I crucify him? That thought sobbers me. Would I have acted the same as the pharisees in defence of the truth. Of course these are my own feelings about this, I'm sure you would never have that problem. ;-)

Re: Unity of the word and spirit, on: 2005/9/6 21:54

Quote:

-----It is horrible advise to yoke together with any false religion in order to evangelize people.

I heard this from a brother in the Lord.

When the bible says 'dont be yoked by them' or something of that nature it means 'controlled'.

A 'yoke' is the thing that pulls the carriage attached to a horse.

(<http://www.answers.com/yoke&r67>) Yoke means "A bar used with a double harness to connect the collar of each horse to the pole of a wagon or coach."

Who is pulling who is the question? So, not allowing them to preach 'baptism/tounge=salvation' then that's not being 'yoked' by them.

Quote:

ZekeO wrote:

The reason that I ask is because over the last while I have been meditating on the relationship between the pharisees and Jesus. The pharisees knew the word backwards (they're Jewish) and most probably forwards and sideways, but when Jesus came along he did not fit into any paradigm of what the messiah should be like.

Now that made me laugh :-P (backwards part)

Good challenge, no need to start a new thread (unless you think it will be indepth). **What makes a 'cult' a 'cult'?**

Thinking about the whole idea of 'being in jail and the Father bailing you out'. Could the Father say 'but I have one request of you, that you jump this 'hoop'.

No, i don't believe that, but think about it. And ponder it more.

Two new questions then.

What makes a 'cult' a 'cult'?

Are the Church of Christ and Pentacostal Oneness saved?

Re: We preach Christ within us, on: 2005/9/6 21:56

Quote:
-----I think the verse about being yoked together is often used out of context....

Even if one's spouse is saved, **a Christian must be yoked with Christ**, not their husbands. So it is with our Christian work. We are to be yoked with Christ. (a big topic) Our participation even in Christian organizations is not to be equated as being yoked with Christ..

I have a unique example. I organized and led an evangelistic effort in my town this summer through drama/music and message. **Most of the people involved were not saved.** Many were unchurched teens, kids, and adults from the community. The one who headed up the props was **an atheist.** The minister who worked with me was a United Church **liberal thinker.**

I still am not recovered from the shock of the result. God took over. The town hall was packed with people many who normally never go to church. The message was powerful through words and music. It was a clear clarion call to make a choice...

Just bloom where God places you and be as Christ to them....

it is ultimately Christ himself who saves and ministers to the sinner...

This is an interesting blend of openness to God, personal faith and sound doctrine. Hallelujah!

Re: Unity of the word and spirit, on: 2005/9/6 22:39

Zeke, this quote of yours hit the Nail right on the head.

Quote:
-----We can know the word so well and quote all the right scriptures, but if Jesus had to come like he did the first time would I crucify him?

that's a Nail right thru the heart when we contemplate that bit of truth.

ouch.

Glory!!!

Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2005/9/7 0:40

Quote:

YeshualsMyGd wrote:
Two new questions then.

What makes a 'cult' a 'cult'?
Are the Church of Christ and Pentacostal Oneness saved?

I think that the term 'false religion' would maybe keep the discussion centred on these two expressions, for that is the term that has been used on this thread in regards to these two groups.

A good place to start in regards to a cult is their attitude and belief towards Jesus Christ, both parts Jesus the Christ. I know we have spoken about it before maybe Christ Jesus, apparently there is a difference. :-?

Re:, on: 2005/9/7 8:24

Quote:

-----When the bible says 'dont be yoked by them' or something of that nature it means 'controlled'.

The Bible does not say 'dont be yoked **by** them'... it says "Do not be unequally yoked **together**" ... which indicates two oxen working together. Partnership, relationship.

How can you come on here and discuss scripture when you dont even know what scripture says? You're not even quoting it correctly.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2005/9/7 12:44

(<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%206%20;&version=49;>) 2 Corinthians 6

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said,

There is NO agreement. With other brethren, we CAN agree on simple things. To say a 'basic' work is apart of salvation, it is. But it doesn't save you.

Okay, i just went to the 'church of Christ' and Pentacostal Oneness/UPCI.

(<http://www.upci.org/doctrine/apostles.asp#salvation>) UPCI

Looking at that, its more than just the 'tongues' argument. And i can't let someone minister the TRUE gospel if they deny the trinity.

(<http://church-of-christ.org/church-of-christ/JMB.html>) Church of Christ

excerpts

You should know, to enter the church, you must:

Believe in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24; Acts 16:31)

Repent of your sins (Turn away from your sins) (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30)

Confess faith in Jesus (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10)

Be baptized into the saving blood of Jesus Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48; Acts 22:16)

You should know that by baptism:

You are saved from sins (Mark 16:16 1 Peter 3:21)

You have remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

Sins are washed away by the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16; Hebrews 9:22; Hebrews 10:22; 1 Peter 3:21)

You enter into the church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 2:41,47)

You enter into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

You put on Christ and become a child of God (Galatians 3:26-27)

You are born again, a new creature (Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

You walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-6)

You obey Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

And from a few different links to their own personal churches, it just seems they put baptism in high regard, as did the Apostles. (Oh there is water, what refrains me from getting baptised).

So, i think if involving with the UPCI, i say bluntly, NO. And with church of Christ, yes.

also, my mistake on the scriptures. (about the yoke)

Re:, on: 2005/9/7 13:34

The COC teaches that you are saved by grace AND baptism. Not sure how you dont see that. I've known several COC people, and I'm telling you, thats what they believe. I'm not the only person who calls that a false doctrine of salvation...

But in this day of apostacy, when doctrine doesnt matter to most folks because it's too divisive, I can certainly understand why many people do not understand this.

We have more versions of the Bible out there on the market, all supposedly designed to make the Word of God more understandable (which removes any dependence on the Holy Spirit to teach us)... yet Bible illiteracy is at an all time high. That's strange to me.

Krispy

Answering from experience - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/9/7 14:23

D. L. Moody had 4 basic tenets of faith he used for fellowship. Anything outside of thoughts he refused to entertain in his ministry as well as fellowship. We took that same principle and applied it to a para-street/neighborhood outreach that utilized several different churches and the volunteers that came from them. Does that make sense to ya? I believe that when everything is upfront and out in the open as to your doctrinal statement then you won't have much trouble (note I said much) :-). Let me know if you need Moody's list.

Re: Answering from experience, on: 2005/9/7 23:04

Yea, sure sounds good. (For list)

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/9/9 7:56

This is from memory, I'll have to re-check, but here goes

- 1) The virgin Birth of Jesus. His Messiahship and all the ramifications that it entailed. Things like His being God ect...
- 2) Christ's death and resurrection. The whole of His work in the plan of salvation, redemption and atonement for our sins
- 3) Our need for salvation and the method of such. He used the Roman road to salvation (if my memory serves me right)

There was a fourth point but I'll have to go through my library and find the autobiography on Moody and his works and dust it off "sigh" and find it again. I'll try to have it for you with all the book references and title, pages ect...as soon as possible. I'll post it here in this thread so you can easily reference it. God Bless Bro Daryl