



May 27, 2007 (Vol. 7)

The Spirit Of Liberalism (4)

Edited

The last three articles have illustrated how some brethren approach the Bible in a "liberal" or loose fashion. Rather than a slack approach, the scriptures themselves teach us to be very careful, attentive to details intensive, and appealing to the authority of God's revealed word in our approach to preaching and teaching.

(1) 1 Timothy 4:15-16 The correct approach is that of intense study, concentration, thought, and dedication to doctrine. This is the opposite of the liberalistic approach of loose emotionalism. We must be careful not to state doctrinal beliefs without proper study and preparation.

(2) Ephesians 4:11-14 One reason that God provided the church with the offices of evangelists, elders, teachers, and in the first century, apostles and prophets, was to keep the church from falling for false doctrine, and to be grounded in truth. The scriptural description of their duties includes teaching and preaching, which in turn implies a solid understanding of God's word. Thus, the normal learning process for the church includes study and organized teaching. This is a rational and careful process, not loose, groundless or emotional statements.

(3) 1 Timothy 6:4 The sin of evil surmising (KJV), otherwise translated "evil suspicions", is that of assuming the worst about others and their motives without evidence. This is exactly what the spirit of liberalism does in reacting emotionally and personally to doctrine, it ends up calling names and assuming things about motives. Note again some of the things in the

previous articles that conservative-minded brethren are accused of and called, with no supporting evidence.

(4) Matthew 7:1-5 In an effort to be tolerant, open-minded, and inclusive, as demonstrated in previous articles, many liberally-minded brethren end up doing the very opposite. They end up being intolerant, close-minded, and exclusive of anyone who does not agree with them and their unscriptural practices.

(5) 2 Timothy 3:7 As demonstrated previously, one of the arguments used in liberalism is that, because some of the Bible is difficult, and because no one person has perfect understanding of all things (both of which are true), **therefore we can never really know anything, and we must be more tolerant of doctrinal differences.** In other words, many liberals are **not willing to decide on a doctrine and stick with it.** Instead, they are "always learning, and never coming to a knowledge of the truth."

In my personal experience, trying to get a straight answer to a straight question from one who is liberal minded, or trying to pin down their beliefs is like trying to wrestle the wind.

(6) 1 Timothy 1:10,11 As seen above, one major tendency of liberalism is the idea that, as long as we share some basic beliefs (for example, believe in Christ, and try to do good deeds) then other things tend to be minimized, especially doctrinal differences. However, the scriptures are clear that the gospel of Christ must include the doctrine of Christ.

If doctrine does not matter, then why did the apostles spend so much time writing about doctrine? Were they just wasting their time? The mere fact that God's word contains so much doctrine shows that doctrine matters!

We will, for now, conclude our series on "The Spirit Of Liberalism". But look for a series soon on "The Gospel - Doctrine Distinction" which is another form of liberalism. The Spirit of Liberalism manifests itself in many shapes and fashions. The only solution is a love of the Truth that moves us to study, practice and teach the

things God has revealed in the way He has revealed them (2 Tim. 1:13; 1 Pet. 4:11).

Mt 7:28 "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his **doctrine**"

Mt 16:12 "Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."

John 7:16-17 "Jesus answered them, and said, My **doctrine** is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the **doctrine**, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

Acts 13:12 "Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the **doctrine** of the Lord."

Rom 6:17 "But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of **doctrine** whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness."

1 Tim 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the **doctrine**; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

2 Tim 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Joyce Gardner (eyes), **Johanna Fletcher**, **Othena Kinnard**, **Jo Miller**, **Wesley Geer** (Life Care 316), **Mag Bumbalough** (Life Care 519), **Thelma Cunningham**, **Mary Cox**, **Monie Petty** (breathing difficulties), **Dave Poteet** (NHC 225), **Dorris Williams**, **Robert & Betty England**, **Ed Williams** (heart blockages), **Joe Smith**, **Mike Tenpenny**, **Thelma Klein**, **DeLeesa Price** (expecting) and **Alisa Fletcher** (expecting). **Kenley Streeval**, **Lydia Poe**, **Larry Bumbalough**, **Jake Hale**, **Joshua & Misty Poteet**, **Carolyn Williams**.

If you would like a name returned to the list or added, please let us know.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Home Bible Study** - Sat. May 26, June 9, 23
- **Door To Door** - Every Tuesday @ 6pm.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. May 27
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month.
- **GM** - Raymond Castillo, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7 pm

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God's Simple Plan Of Salvation

- Faith in Christ (John 8:24; Mk 16:16)
- Repentance of sin (Acts 2:38, Acts 17:30-33)
- Confession of Christ (Rom. 10:13; Acts 8:37)
- Baptism into Christ (Mk 16:16; Rom. 6:3)
- Be Faithful Unto Death (Rev. 2:10; Acts 8:22)

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