

EXPEDIENCY AND LAW

One of the root issues when trying to deal with anti-ism is the failure of some to recognize the difference between expediency and absolute law. There is a difference between the Bible authorizing a certain thing being done in a certain way; and that way being the only way.

The New Testament does set out a pattern of conduct and worship for all. In **John 8:32** the Lord taught that a knowledge of the truth was the road through which salvation comes. We are not to go beyond what is authorized by God (2 John 9). In **Galatians 1:6-8** we read, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

While we certainly do not have a right from God to go beyond what is authorized (2 John 9, “Whosoever goeth onward...”). In the last thirty years there has been an avalanche of congregations rushing headlong into sectarian practices as they ignore the Bible’s instructions. We currently see choirs (praise teams), instrumental music being used in worship and all kinds of unauthorized fund raisers. Many biblical doctrines are sacrificed. Most immoral actions are winked at (modesty, unscriptural marriages, drinking, gambling, etc.). Baptism, the church’s organization, the five acts of worship — all of these have been corrupted in many pulpits.

Jesus had to deal with men like those above; the Sadducees. This sect was very secular. They modeled themselves after the Greek culture of their day. Today these “modern progressives” also emulate the world around them. This problem has long tempted the people of God. In **1 Samuel 8:5** we read, “And they said unto him, Behold, thou

art old, and thy sons walk not in thy way: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” Desiring to be like the world only makes one worldly. In **Matthew 6:24**, the Lord said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Another common mistake we often make is jumping from one extreme to another. The opposite side to this same discussion is binding what God has loosed. Where a liberal loosens God’s restrictions, an anti tightens (binds) God’s freedoms. Jesus did constant battle with the antis of His day - Pharisees. These men made their traditions equal to the divinely given word of God. Note the quip from Jesus in **Matthew 15**, “Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (vs. 7-19). In fact in verse 3 of the same chapter we read, “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”

For whatever reason, the laws of God weren’t sufficient in the eyes of these men so they made up some more — A “new and improved” version of the Law of Moses — A higher moral code than what God expected. Of course the reality is, when we “improve” what God gives us, we corrupt it.

God is perfect and His word is always perfect. Notice:

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Psalms 19:7-11

I’ve heard misguided preachers actually say, “We have more in common with antis than liberals.” I tend to disagree. We can go to hell just as quickly for binding more than God binds as losing where He has. Jesus repeatedly condemned the Pharisees as being the sons of Satan (John 8). He, in no way, commended them for their over zealousness. Both of these problems are spawned from the same basic problem — a lack of trust in God. One group thinks God is too soft, and the other too harsh.

Concerning expediency (that which aids in the carrying out the commands of God), much can be said. Our anti friends sometimes have a hard time distinguishing between an expedient and an obligation. Also, that which is a true expedient is authorized. One example would be Bible classes. Some antis oppose Bible classes for children. The fact is that the Bible authorizes us to teach (2 Timothy 2:2). We (parents) are called upon by God to train up our children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). The Bible class setting expedites in the carrying out of the above obligations. The work of the church is to (1) evangelize the world (2) edify the saints (3) care for the poor. Part of evangelizing is teaching children.

Another similar point of contention is the “located preacher” controversy. They will say it is a sin to have a preacher move to and work at a certain location, and be paid from the church treasury. The apostle Paul was a located preacher in Ephesus for better than three years. Again, every passage that calls upon the elders to feed the flock/church (Acts 20:28, et al.) can be fulfilled by hiring a preacher to do just that. While we have a right to forego having a “full time” preacher, we certainly have God’s approval for having just that.

May God help us stay within the way He has given us.

Michael Light *from Seek Ye First*

ANNIVERSARY

John and Barbara James, 09-21.

BIRTHDAYS

Debra Gragg, 09-16; McCale Parish, 09-18;
Melissa Cole, 09-20.

ILL

Clara Scott had out-patient surgery on her knee at Olathe Medical Center on Friday and is recovering at home. Janice Carter is scheduled for out-patient surgery on her knee at St. Luke's (Plaza) on Friday, September 21.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Ed and Verna Hanson are back with us from their time spent in Canada. Robin Brown was in Maryland on a business trip last Sunday. Melissa Cole was in Hutchinson, Kansas last Sunday. Chris Edwards was in Oklahoma City last week. Trent Thrasher will be in California on business this week.

MID-WEST LECTURES

The **25th Annual Mid-West Lectures** — *“Following the Narrow Way To Heaven”* — will be held September 16-20 at 39th Street in Independence, MO. See the flyer in the foyer for details. Our thanks to all who signed up to be helpers in this work by providing desserts and assisting in the kitchen.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 40; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 34.

Those To Serve

September 16, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Steve Brown
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Joel Nelson
ASSIST.....David Parish
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter
LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 19th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
INVITATIONTed Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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