

Please Remember To Pray For The Sick!

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“You’re NOT Going To Change Me!”

In a discussion with a denominational preacher, it was noted that we have some real and serious doctrinal differences. “Would you be willing to discuss these in a friendly way?” I asked. He responded: “I’m not going to try to convert you, and you DEFINITELY aren’t going to change me!” While the attitude he expressed is very common these days, we think it is wrong on several levels.

1) This attitude certainly conveys the idea: “I’m right, and couldn’t possibly be wrong.” No one can afford to think that way. Consider Apollos (Acts 18). He was a well educated man from a respected center of Biblical studies; he was an eloquent speaker; and he was highly committed to spreading his message (vs. 24-25). But when he arrived in Ephesus, two ‘ordinary Christians’ (Aquila and Priscilla) recognized his faulty understanding and reached out to him with help (vs. 26). To his great credit, he accepted their instruction, changed, and went on to be a faithful and effective preacher of the Word (1 Cor. 3:4ff). That would have never happened if he had proudly said: “You DEFINITELY aren’t going to change me!” Let us all be open to the reality that we just might be wrong, and if so we WANT to be instructed “in the way of God more perfectly.”

2) This preacher’s response also suggests that he isn’t really interested in ME! We differ. He acknowledges this. Yet he has no interest in changing my understanding. How can this be? If these differences are significant enough to provoke his ‘you won’t change me’ reply, then they are surely important enough that he ought to want to change me . Yet, he says no. Out of love for my soul he should want to teach me (2 Tim. 2:25), but he won’t.

3) His reaction to the offer to study our differences also shows that he is content to remain in a divided state. In so doing, he is directly counteracting the desire and prayer of Jesus that we be united (John 17:20,21)

His response was a common one, but it exposes some seriously wrong attitudes. Think!

Gods Plan Of Salvation

Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10

seeking Truth



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Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM
Everyone is Welcome To Attend!

Proving Oneself

In writing about the qualifications of deacons, Paul said that they ought to "first be proved" (1 Tim. 3:10). His point is obvious. Before a man should be appointed to serve in this special office in the church, he should have demonstrated his faithfulness, his zeal and his commitment to serve the Lord. The church does not need someone who has to be specially recognized before he does any work. It needs a man who is already working - and who will continue to work whether he receives any recognition or not.

While Paul was specifically speaking about deacons in the text cited, there are some things implied that have application to all Christians:

1 - First, you should realize that you are currently establishing a reputation. Others in the congregation are viewing your work and service. They are developing an opinion of you. As they think of you, they will see you as either a steady worker or as a mere spectator in the work of the church. Which will it be?

2 - If it is right to hold potential deacons up to this kind of scrutiny, why would it not also be proper to use the same approach regarding folks who might be selected for other roles in the church? Preachers, Bible class teachers, those who serve in the public worship, etc., all need to "first be proved."

3 - And, while some will complain about this kind of "judging," it is clear that the Lord expects us to do it (John 7:24). If you want to serve, then you must be willing to "first be proved." And so, Christian, how are you doing? As your brothers and sisters look to you do they see someone who is "proving" himself as a faithful disciple? Such evaluations ARE taking place continually. How do you rate? Think! - by Greg Gwin