

## THEY SAY, AND DO NOT DO

There is great danger in teaching doctrines that are false.

- a. **2Jn 9** -- "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."
- b. **1Tim 1:3** -- "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia -- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine."
- c. **Matt 15:8-9** -- "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

There is also great danger in teaching true doctrine, AND THEN NOT DOING IT.

- a. Some Christians who oppose false doctrines actually practice, in their everyday living, many of those same false doctrines.
- b. Some Christians are right about the Calvinists, Pentecostals and others being wrong in the things they teach, but then those same Christians actually practice some of those doctrines that they rightly say are false!
- c. This kind of thing is abhorrent to God.
  - ▶ **Rom 2:17-24** -- "Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? 24 For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,' as it is written."

I want to point out some areas in which people who claim to be true Christians, and teach true doctrine, are sometimes/often guilty of teaching one thing and practicing something else.

## EXAMPLES AND APPLICATION

### 1. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

**False doctrine:** Salvation is by faith only.

- a. "Wherefore, the doctrine of salvation by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and full of comfort" (Methodist Discipline).

**True doctrine:** Saving faith is a living, active, obedient faith.

- a. **Jas 2:17** "Thus also faith by itself, without works, is dead."
- b. **Jas 2:24** "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."
- c. **Gal 5:6** "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."

Yet, some Christians are seldom involved in actually DOING THE WORKS they say are necessary to saving faith.

- a. **Jas 1:27** visiting the fatherless and widows
- b. **Heb 10:24-25** encouraging and admonishing other Christians
- c. **1Pet 4:9** practicing hospitality
- d. **Gal 6:1** restoring those who are involved in sin
- e. **2Tim 2:2** teaching the lost

Christians (real Christians) devote their lives to the Lord's work and doing good works.

- a. **1Tim 6:18** (NIV) "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be

generous and willing to share.”

- b. **1Cor 15:58** “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

Who is the worst offender?

- a. The one who says salvation is by faith only?  
b. Or, the one who says we are justified by works, and not by faith only, but then doesn't do the works?!

## 2. BAPTISM

**False doctrine:** Baptism by itself will save (Baptismal Regeneration).

- a. A leading Catholic authority defines “baptism” in the following fashion: “A sacrament of the New Law instituted by Jesus Christ, in which, as a result of washing with water accompanied by the words ‘I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,’ a human being is spiritually regenerated, and made capable of receiving the other sacraments.” (Attwater, 45).
- ▶ This view involves the idea that “baptism” need not be accompanied by faith, or personal surrender to the Lord. Note these additional citations from the same source.
    - **“Baptism of the insane** may be lawfully performed if such a desire has been expressed in a lucid interval, or in imminent danger of death if, before losing reason, a desire had been manifested. Those who have been insane from birth, or since before attaining the use of reason, may at any time be baptized as infants.”
    - **“Baptism of the unborn.** If there is not a probable hope that a child can be baptized after birth, Baptism may be administered in the womb: in the case of a head presentation, on the head; in other presentations on the part presented, but then it has to be again baptized conditionally if it is living on complete delivery. Should the mother die in labour, the child is to be extracted from the womb and, if certainly living, baptized absolutely; if life is doubtful, conditionally. An aborted fetus must also be baptized, unconditionally or conditionally according to the circumstances.”

**True doctrine:** Baptism will save the believing penitent who lives faithfully before God.

- a. **Rom 6:3,4** “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
  - ▶ **Col 2:11,12** “In Him you also were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”
- b. **Mk 16:16** “He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
- c. **Ac 26:20** “but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”
- d. **Rom 10:9-10** “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

But . . .

- a. You don't hear them confessing their faith when the opportunity arises.  
b. You don't see the fruits of repentance in their lives

- c. You don't see them walking in newness of life
- d. You don't see consistent dedication to living faithfully.

Who is the worst offender?

- a. The one who says baptism by itself will save?
- b. Or, the one who *says* baptism is just one of the conditions of salvation, but *lives* as though it's the only condition that really matters?!

### 3. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

**False doctrine:** Nothing a Christian does or fails to do puts his soul in any danger (ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED).

- a. *"They whom God hath accepted in His beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved."* (The Westminster Confession of Faith)
- b. *"We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul."* (Sam Morris, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Stamford, Texas)

**True doctrine:** The Christian must "be faithful until death" in order to receive "the crown of life" (**Rev 2:10**).

- a. **Col 1:21-23** "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and irreproachable in His sight - IF indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard. . ."
- b. **2Pet 1:5-11** " But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
- c. **Tit 2:11-14** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that (1) He might redeem us from every lawless deed and (2) purify for Himself His own special people, (3) zealous for good works."

Some members of the church say that a Christian must be faithful unto death to receive the crown of life, but . . .

- a. they live however they want to
- b. they go where they want to go
- c. they do what they want to do
- d. they say what they want to say
- e. they act like they have some special exemption from God

Who is the worst offender?

- a. The one who says a Christian's sins do not endanger his soul?
- b. Or, the one who says a Christian's sins do endanger his soul, but behaves as though he doesn't mean a word of it?

#### 4. MUSIC IN WORSHIP

**False doctrine:** It's alright to use mechanical instruments of music in our worship to God.

**True doctrine:** We are to sing and make melody in our hearts in our worship to God.

- a. **Heb 13:15** "Therefore by Him let us continually offer up the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."
- b. **Eph 5:19** "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"
- c. **Col 3:16** "singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"
- d. **Psa 95:1-7** -- "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. 4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. 5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand"

Who is the worst offender?

- a. The one who enthusiastically sings songs of praise and admonition while accompanied by instruments of music?
- b. Or, the one who insists that only singing is approved by God and we must make melody "in the heart" and not on mechanical instruments, but he finds no real enjoyment in singing and his heart really isn't in it?

#### 5. GIVING TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

**False doctrine:** Christians are required to tithe -- like the Jews under the law of Moses..

**True doctrine:** Christians are to give freewill offerings.

- a. **1Cor 16:2** "let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper"
- b. **2Cor 8:12** "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has . . ."
- c. **2Cor 9:7** "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"

Who is the worst offender?

- a. The one who is a stickler for giving a tenth of his earnings because he believes the law of Moses (or that part of the law of Moses) is still binding?
- b. Or, the one who contends that our giving is to be governed only by the teaching of the New Testament, but he gives as little as he can "get by with" and even that is given only because he feels obligated?

#### 6. THE FELLOWSHIP MEAL

**False doctrine:** The local church is authorized by the Scriptures to provide social meals for the congregation (which many of our brethren refer to as "fellowship meals").

**True doctrine:** The Lord's Supper is the true "fellowship meal" . . . and common meals are to be eaten "at home" . . . and social meals are to be provided by individual Christians and families as practical demonstrations of brotherly love and hospitality.

- a. I say, "The Lord's Supper is the true 'fellowship meal' because . . .
  - ▶ **1Cor 10:16** "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion (*koinonia*, fellowship, YLT) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion (*koinonia*, fellowship, YLT) of the body of Christ? 17 For we, being many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread."
- b. I say, "common meals are to be eaten at home" because . . .
  - ▶ **1Cor 11:22** "What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?"

- ▶ **1Cor 11:34** “But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment.”
- c. I say, “social meals are to be provided by individual Christians and families as practical demonstrations of brotherly love and hospitality” because . . .
  - ▶ **Ac 2:46** “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people.”
  - ▶ **Rom 12:10, 13** “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”
  - ▶ **1Pet 4:9** “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

Brethren, it is NOT enough to oppose “fellowship halls” and “fellowship meals” and church-sponsored social and recreational activities.

- a. The Lord’s apostle says we must be “given to hospitality” (Rom 12:13).
  - ▶ “Given to hospitality” means “pursuing hospitality” and it’s translated that way in Young’s Literal Translation.
  - ▶ Marvin Vincent, in his Word Studies in the NT, says: “*Lit., pursuing hospitality.*” And he goes on to say: “*The verb indicates not only that hospitality is to be furnished when sought, but that Christians are to seek opportunities for exercising it.*”
  - ▶ This same verb is translated “pursue” in a number of other passages.
    - In **1Cor 14:1** Paul says, “Pursue love”
    - In **1Th 5:15** he says, “always pursue what is good”
    - In **Heb 12:14** the writer says, “Pursue peace with all men”
  - ▶ So Christians are to *pursue* hospitality, looking for opportunities to practice hospitality . . .
    - to one another in the congregation
    - to new members
    - to visiting preachers
    - to travelling brethren
- b. As we learn to love one another as brothers and sisters in the family of God we will want to spend time together, and be in one another’s homes.
  - ▶ It will become a natural expression of our love and affection for one another.
  - ▶ We will be closer to some than to others, but we will love all our brothers and sisters -- and we will be hospitable toward all of them.

## CONCLUSION

This sermon has really been about HYPOCRISY.

- a. Because we’ve been talking about people who SAY one thing, but DO something else.
  - ▶ They SAY they believe one thing, but they BEHAVE as though they believe something else
- b. Jesus reserved His very strongest rebuke and condemnation for just such people as that: “**They say, and do not do.**”(Matt 23:3)
  - ▶ Again and again He called them “hypocrites”
  - ▶ And Jesus says the hypocrites will be damned.
  - ▶ **Matt 15:7-9** “**Hypocrites!** Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me.’ 9 And in vain they worship Me, . . .”
  - ▶ **Matt 24:51** “But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ 49 and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the **hypocrites**. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”