

MAN'S DOCTRINES VS THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The doctrine of Christ demands oneness, unity of faith, Jno.17:20,21; 1Cor.1:1-13; 2Jno.9-11.
2. But men often teach one thing while Jesus Christ teaches another. Therefore, the doctrines of men conflict with and contradict the doctrine of Christ.
3. Take note of the following scriptures which focus our attention on this important, soul-searching matter, Prov.14:12; Mt.16:13-16; 15:9; Col.2:8, 20-23; Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46.
4. Anyone who has taken the time and put forth the effort to study the doctrines of men and compare them with the doctrine of Christ has learned of the many differences between the two.
5. The purpose of this lesson is to call your attention to and to examine some of the common, more obvious differences and contradictions.

II. DISCUSSION

A. MAN'S DOCTRINE SAYS "ONE WAY IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER"

1. What this means from a practical standpoint is that doctrinal differences do not matter; we all believe in one God; all are headed for the same place, etc.
2. If this be true; if they really mean this:
 - a. Then the way taught and practiced by either the Jehovah's Witnesses, or by the Mormons, or by the religion of Islam, etc., is as good as that taught by the Baptists, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, etc.
 - b. I doubt seriously that those who say "one way is as good as another, and doctrinal differences do not matter" really believe it.
3. But, of course, even if they do believe it, this doctrine is not true, because it is the direct opposite of the doctrine of Christ, which teaches there is "one way," Jno.14:6; Mt.7:13,14; Ac.4:10-12; 1Tim.1:3; Tit.3:10,11; 1Jno.4:1; Jno.8:32; 2Th.2:10-12; 2Jno.9f.

B. MAN'S DOCTRINE SAYS "ONE FAITH IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER"

1. Thus they speak of "the faith of our choice", and often say "you have your faith, we have our faith"; so, according to them, there is "this faith and that faith" and "one is as good as another," "you

may believe what you want to as long as you are honest and sincere.”

2. If this be true; if they really mean this, then (repeat what was said about “one way is as good as another”)
3. Again, even if they do believe it, this is the doctrine of men, not the doctrine of Christ, and is therefore false; for the doctrine of Christ says “there is one faith,” Eph.4:4-6.
 - a. See Jude 3; Gal.1:6-12.
 - b. Cf. Mk.16:15,16; Rom.1:14-17; 1Cor.15:1,2; Gal.1:23; 1Cor.2:1,2.
 - c. Obviously, there is one system of faith; the faith of Christ, Rom.3:21-22; Gal.2:16; Phil.1:27; Jude 3.

C. MAN’S DOCTRINE SAYS “ONE CHURCH IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER”

1. Thus they say:
 - a. “There are many different churches of many different faiths from which you have a right to choose”
 - b. “Join the church of your choice”
 - c. “Attend the church of your choice”
 - d. “Worship in the church of your choice”
 - e. “It makes no difference to which church you belong as long as you are honest and sincere in what you believe”
 - f. “The doctrinal differences in churches do not really matter, are not all that important, will not damn your soul”
2. Once again, if this be true; if they really mean this:
 - a. Then those of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Mormons, and the Islamics are as good as the Baptist churches, the Methodists churches, the Presbyterian churches, etc.
 - b. Think about what the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Mormons, and the Islamics teach about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, baptism, the church, heaven and hell, etc.
 - c. I doubt seriously that those who say “one church is as good as another” really believe what they are saying. When pressed, I don’t believe they will stay with their claim!
3. But, even if they will, it is still a false doctrine, because the doctrine of Christ teaches “there is one body,” and that body is “the church belonging to Christ,” “the church of Christ,” Eph.4:4-6; 1:22,23; Col.1:18,24; Eph.5:23-27; Mt.16:13-19.
 - a. See Ac.2:47; 5:11.

- b. Rom.16:16; Gal.1:1,2,22; Rev.1:11 – all of which were of the same faith and order.
- c. Cf. 1Cor.4:17 and 1Cor.16:1,2, which can't be done in churches of different faiths and orders (Explain)

D. AS A RESULT OF THE PREVIOUSLY STATED BELIEFS, MAN'S DOCTRINE SAYS "ALL HONEST, SINCERE BELIEVERS ARE GOING TO BE SAVED BECAUSE 'WE ALL BELIEVE IN THE SAME GOD, WORSHIP THE SAME GOD, AND ARE ALL HEADED TO THE SAME PLACE, HEAVEN.'"

- 1. Though they do not, and cannot, cite any scriptural proof for this claim, they dogmatically hold to the claim.
- 2. The doctrine of Christ, however, emphatically denies their claim, teaching that not all the religiously honest and sincere believers will be saved, Prov.14:12; 16:25; Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46; Ac.23:1; 26:9-11; 1Tim.1:12-15; Heb.5:8,9; Cf. Mt.15:9.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. You will notice, they can cite no scriptural proof for any of these doctrines we have examined! In spite of this fact, they stubbornly cling to them, teach them, practice them, sometimes try to defend them, and always condemn all who disagree with them.
- 2. The doctrines of men have resulted in religious division and the establishment of many different denominations and religions teaching and practicing the doctrines of men, all of which are condemned as sinful and contrary to Jesus' prayer for unity of believers, 1Cor.1:10-13; Jno.17:20,21.
- 3. Most of these denominations and human religions, if not all of them, teach and practice some of the doctrine of Christ, but by and large in doctrine and practice they differ from the faith of Jesus Christ and the church belonging to Christ found taught in the N.T.: they differ as to origin, foundation, head, name, organization, doctrine, practice and destiny.
- 4. Prov.14:12; 16:25; Mt.7:21-23; 15:9.
- 5. Mk.16:15,16; Rom.1:16,17; 1Cor.15:1,2; Gal.1:6-12; 1Cor.1:21.
- 6. Heb.5:8,9; 1Pet.1:22-25.