

Faith & Opinion

Introduction:

- A. Two different extremes are seen in the Lord's church. - e.g., man who preached that Cain was born before Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden
 - 1. those who treat God's Word as if it were opinion and
 - 2. those who treat their opinions as if they were God's Word.
- B. Obviously, both errors stem from the failure to distinguish between faith and opinion. - Isaiah 55:8-9
- C. What is the difference between faith and opinion?

I. Faith

- A. God's Revealed Will - Jude 3; Galatians 1:11-12,23; Romans 10:8,17
- B. Determines Fellowship - 2 John 9-11; e.g., divorce and remarriage; Matthew 19:9
- C. Basis of Unity - Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10
- D. Must Judge - 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
- E. Must Preach - Galatians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 4:13; 1 Peter 4:11
- F. Must Contend For - Jude 3

II. Opinion - cf. "Heresy":

... denotes (a) a choosing, choice...; then, that which is chosen, and, hence, an opinion, especially a selfwilled opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects....(Vine. 2:217).

- A. Man's Thoughts - Romans 14:5
- B. Must **NOT** Determine Fellowship - Romans 14:1-3; e.g., one cup for Lord's Supper
- C. May Have Diversity - Romans 14:6-9
- D. Must Not Be Basis of Judgment - Romans 14:13
- E. Must Not Preach - Romans 14:22
- F. Must Not Contend For - Romans 14:22

Conclusion:

- A. We must be able to distinguish between faith and opinion. - Isaiah 55:8-9
- B. Have you responded to the preaching of faith?