

is His standard of what is right in serving Him? Surely you don't use how you feel about something to determine whether it is correct!

A lot of people like to say, "You're wrong, and we're right!" But let's face it; we're all wrong unless we're following God's way!!!

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

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DOING OUR SHARE

by George Slover

"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)

The Greek word "metron" denotes that which is used for measuring. In the NKJV it is rendered "share". In other translations it is translated "measure". A footnote in the NASB states "according to the working in measure of each individual part". Like the human body, the church will best fulfill its mission when every member carries their load according to their own ability.

The mission of the church is to promote the growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Within the atmosphere of love each member must grow toward perfection. The ultimate goal is to grow closer to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The church's mission is best accomplished when its members learn that every member of the body is important. Just as every part of the human body contributes to the health of the whole, the same is true of the body of Christ. The body is fitly joined together. Each member is dependent on the other. No member can dismiss the other as useless. In the church there are babes in Christ, also young and old; some strong in faith, some warm in love; but in a well-ordered church these have learned to work with and for each other.

However, the church's mission is also best accomplished when none

of its members are over-burdened! The responsibility of each part is according to the measure of their strength and ability. Everyone is given talents according to their ability (Matthew 25:14-30), and each is expected to use those gifts (Romans 12:4-8) to contribute toward the goal.

As a member of the body of Christ, my responsibility is to ask: "What is my ministry"? "How can I contribute"? If each member will consider his duty in the matter of edifying the body, he becomes an important part of progressing toward this wonderful Divine goal. It is surely worth our effort to take part in this noble cause.

WHO'S RIGHT; WHO'S WRONG...

by Bob Pulliam

Religionists are diligent in their efforts to make nearly everyone seem right. Their reasoning basically says, "As long as you believe on Jesus as the Christ, and practice your religion in sincerity, you are alright." There is "right" and "wrong" in religion. Nearly all will agree with this *when pressed*. But who is right, and who is wrong? I am going to give you the clear and unmistakable answer in this matter. Here it is: God is right, and mankind is wrong. It's just as simple as that. All that God has revealed in His word as truth is right. Such is the only way to attain eternal salvation. All that mankind devises and practices is wrong. Such will lead in no other direction than to hell.

"What about mankind following God's truth?" Mankind did not devise it. It is still *God's* word whether mankind follows or not. If mankind follows, God is still right and mankind confesses the same. But more often than not, mankind adds to and subtracts from God's truth. Mankind strives to devise ways of wisdom and efficiency to streamline God's will. This is the way of mankind, and such is wrong (see Mt 21:23-27; Lev 10:1-3).

The Nature of Truth...

Truth is a funny thing. It is always the same, and never contradicts itself. How many different religious groups can you think of off the top of your head that claim to be "Christian"? How many of their doctrines are in conflict with each other, not to mention with the Bible? Jesus said, "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn 8:32) Many want to limit this to the truth about who Jesus is, or that He really was

raised from the dead. To know that Jesus intended more than this, we need only look at the sentence before. Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." (Jn 8:31) We must abide in Jesus' word (teachings). Jesus had more to say than just identifying who He was, or affirming that He was raised from the dead.

Now when we look at truth in any other area of life, we seem to be able to understand that truth is absolute. The spelling of words do not change just because everyone's opinion ought to be respected. The answers to mathematical equations do not change from year to year, because of societal changes. But when we get into religion, we suddenly consider truth to be subjective to feelings and past experiences, rather than an absolute body of revelation from our God. If the Bible says one thing, and our feelings say something otherwise, we seem to think truth must have changed since the time that God revealed His word. That's very convenient! I wish I had thought of that in High School. "Yes, Miss Chemistry teacher; I know the book says my answer is wrong, but the answer has changed since the book was published ten years ago. I can feel it!" That would have gone over great! It would have gone over just as well as today's reasoning will go in the judgment.

The Nature of Judgment...

Judgment is a funny thing. It is based on a standard. Whether it is the laws of a country or the law given by God, judgment is always based on a standard. Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (Jn 12:48) Jesus also said that one must do the will of the Father in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt 7:21ff). It's necessary that we see the importance of Jesus being "revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Th 1:7f) This is going to be a big surprise to all of the people who run around crying, "You can't obey the gospel, you can only believe it!"

In the final analysis, there will be a lot of people in the judgment discovering that God was right, and they were wrong! I certainly don't want to be in their corner when this fact comes to their attention. Do you?

Conclusion...

God is right; and unless you and I follow His precepts, we will be wrong! Everything you see in religion is either of heaven or men. How do you determine the source of a practice? Do you use God's word, which