

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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October 16, 2022

“Before We Criticize”

By Heath Rogers

There are times when mistakes are made and things need to be pointed out. And, unfortunately, we all know that offering criticism can sometimes make a bad situation even worse. Serious thought needs to go into what we will say. Maybe it would help if we would ask the following questions before offering criticism:



1. Why Am I Doing This?

Do I really want to help this person, or am I just doing this to make myself feel better? Am I trying to improve the situation, or do I just want to say, “I told you so!” What is my motive?

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4). Regardless of what the world believes, we don’t have the right to let off some steam at the expense of another. Criticism that is only going to make us feel better needs to be kept to ourselves.

2. Do I Have The Right To Criticize?

Was I available when this person could have used some help before? Can I sympathize with what they are going through? Can I offer some positive suggestions to go along with the criticism? Some people like to just sit on the sidelines and criticize the labors of others. Such people really have no right to criticize.

3. Have I Examined Myself?

It is not right for me to give criticism that I am not willing to take. Jesus says that I must make sure the log is out of my eye first, and then I can offer to help my brother get the speck out of his eye (Matthew 7:3-5). Criticism is respected when it comes from a respectable person, but no one appreciates a hypocrite.

4. What Will I Say, And How Will I Say It?

This is very important. I must choose my words very carefully. They have the power to build up or destroy (Proverbs 12:18; 16:24). As Paul said, *“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt”* (Colossians 4:6). What we say, and the way we say it, will make all the difference in the world.

5. Will It Glorify God?

“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Whose glory am I seeking? Am I saying something to help the cause of Christ or just to be heard? If it is just to be seen or heard by men, then truly I have my reward (Matthew 6:1-6).

“A Few Ominous Isms”

By Irvin Himmel

An “ism” is a distinctive doctrine, cause, or theory. Peculiar presumptions and well-defined views are commonly dubbed as “isms.” Christians are confronted with a wide range of “isms,” many of these threatens our spiritual welfare. In this article, I mention a few of them so that we may guard against them.

Materialism.

There are religious people who suppose that man is wholly material or physical in his nature. They therefore, see death as cessation of existence. They are like the accent Sadducees (Acts 23:8). Yet, There is more to man than physical life. Jesus said in Matthew 10:28, *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* The fact that one can kill your body, but not your soul, indicates that there is more to you than just the material body you live in. Your soul survives the death of your body, and can only be destroyed by God.

Others hold to materialism in a different sense. They know that man has a soul or spirit made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), but they overemphasize material things. They permit the material to crowd out the spiritual. Jesus taught that temporal things are not the most important (Matthew 6:33; 16:26). We must not become so worldly and materially minded that we lose sight of our reward in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

Sensualism.

Commercial advertisers, entertainers, movie producers, many book and magazine publishers, TV programmers, many video makers, and others are promoting sensualism (Today, we could rightly include the sensuality on Facebook, YouTube, And TikTok videos— Brian).

The Public is being flooded with pictures, words, and suggestions that develop and encourage lewdness, licentiousness, sexual permissiveness, carnality, fleshly lusts, and wantonness. Moral impurity is flaunted, paraded, and exhibited openly. The Bible includes as works of the flesh, *“immortality, impurity, sensuality.”* (Galatians 5:19 NASB), warning that *“those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* (5:21).

Pharisaism.

The members of the ancient Jewish sect known as the Pharisees were noted for hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and insincerity. A splendid example of their attitude is found in the parable in Luke 18:9-14, *“Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Many today are given to Pharisaism. They are sanctimonious in their own eyes. They see themselves as righteous, and virtually all others as less than righteous. Some of the most severe denunciations delivered by Christ were directed against the Pharisaical outlook (See Matthew 23). It is much easier to see fault in others than to admit one’s own sins.

Liberalism.

Some take very broad attitudes in interpreting what the Bible teaches us. This way of thinking leads them to indulge in practices which the New Testament does not allow. They throw off the restraints imposed by apostolic authority. Some are so tolerant and restricted as to fellowship people who do not believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, deny the inspiration of the Scriptures, and do not believe that Jesus arose bodily from the grave. Some are not that liberal, but they accept sprinkling and pouring for baptism, think one church is as good as another, and sanction denominationalism (another “ism” to be avoided for sure!—BM).

Others take liberties with the word of God on such subjects as worship (Praise teams, choirs, solos, instrumental music—BM), the organization and work of the church (church supported recreation, entertainment, youth ministers, missionary societies, church support of colleges, orphan homes, church daycare, and centralized control of brotherhood churches—BM), and women’s role in the church (women song leaders, deacons, giving announcements during services, women preachers and teachers over men—BM). Liberalism goes against the pattern of truth found in God’s word and leads us away from Him (2 John 9-11).



Memory Verse Of The Week:

Proverbs 23:23 (NKJB)

“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Aaron Posey (Phil Campbell), Wade Butler, Wesley Trimble, and Danny Cottrell.

Jerry Trimble got to go home last week.

Kathryn Callahan's mother and Kathryn and baby (complications in her pregnancy).

Jon Smith, Lynlie's brother in law who fell out of a tree.

The Harris family in the passing Of Tim Harris Sr's sister, Nelda.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Fred Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Nature Of Divine Truth"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: Ephesians
Chris Reeves
Starting Page & Question: *Page #61 Question #15*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Danny Sheffield
Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 23:23*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"The Truth, The Whole Truth, & Nothing But The Truth"*
Closing Prayer: Paul Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 19th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: The Miracles Of Jesus
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page #13 Question #11*
Invitation: Doug George
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

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“The Nature Of Divine Truth”

Lesson Text: **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

I. Divine Truth Is Divine In Nature.

- **2 Tim. 3:16**, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,*”
- The Source Of Truth Comes From God— Inspired Men To Pen His Words.
- **2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.**
- The Difference Between God’s Authority And Man’s- **Matthew 21:23-27.**
- Why The Traditions Of Men Aren’t Authoritative- **Matthew 15:9.**
- Many In Old & New Testament Claimed Inspiration- **2 Peter 2:1; Ezekiel 13:2.**
- But True Prophets Were Inspired— Contrast Seen- **Jeremiah 28:10-17.**

II. Divine Truth Is Unalterable In Nature.

- God Does Not Allow Men To Change His Word:
Deut. 4:1-2; Gal. 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19.
- Why? Because It Ceases To Be God’s Word When Changed- **Genesis 3:4-5.**
- What Does Not Change God’s Word:
 - Time Doesn’t Alter It!
 - Feelings Do Not Change It.
 - The Disobedience Of A Loved One.
 - What Men Say To Contradict It.
- God’s Word Is Settled/Fixed In Heaven- **Psalms 119:89.**

III. Divine Truth Is Singular In Nature.

- Truth Is Not Plural In Nature; Not Many Truths, But One!
- Scripture Doesn’t Have Ten Different Interpretations:
Acts 2:38; Galatians 6:7-8.
- **2 Corinthians 11:1-3; Galatians 5:20**, “*Heresies*”
- **1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Philippians 3:16; Ephesians 4:4-5.**
- **1 Timothy 1:3.**

IV. Divine Truth Is Consistent In Nature.

- **1 Corinthians 4:17.**
- Same Doctrine; Same Worship; Same Organization; Same Work; Same Salvation.
- No Contradictions In Divine Truth.
- Baptism Saves Or Not? Lord’s Supper On 1st Day Or Not? Instruments Optional?

V. Divine Truth Is Universal In Nature.

- **Matthew 28:19-20.** Divine Truth Is For All People, Lands, Nations, For All Time!

Conclusion: How I Act On Divine Truth Will Determine:
My Salvation Or Condemnation?

“The Truth, The Whole Truth, And Nothing But The Truth”

Lesson Text: **Ecclesiastes 12:10.**

I. The Truth.

- Truth Defined: The quality or state of being true; that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality.
- Jesus’ Words Concerning The Truth:
John 8:31-32; John 17:17; John 18:37.
- Paul’s Words Concerning The Truth:
2 Corinthians 4:2. Ephesians 4:21-24; Ephesians 4:25.
- God Is The Source Of All Truth- **Psalm 25:4-5; 1 John 1:5.**
- Jesus Embodied The Truth- **John 1:17; John 14:6.**
- The Holy Spirit Brought Us The Truth- **John 16:13.**
- The Church Is The Pillar And Ground Of The Truth- **1 Timothy 3:15.**

II. The Whole Truth.

- Nothing Is To Be Left Out- **Acts 20:20-27;**
- Some Have Been In Favor Of Holding Back The Truth:
- Leaving Out Certain Subjects:
Marriage, Divorce, & Remarriage; Baptism; The One Church; Immodest Dress; The Work Of The Church; Social Drinking; Why Denominationalism Is Wrong; The Role Of Women In The Church; What Is False Doctrine; Church Discipline....
- No Truth The Bible Teaches Should Ever Be Discarded Or Rejected.
- If It Is A Bible Subject, It Needs To Be Preached, So We Can Obey It.
- Why Do Men Not Preach The Whole Counsel Of God:
 - They Want To Be Popular With The World- **John 15:19; 1 John 4:4-5.**
 - They Can’t Endure God’s Word- **2 Timothy 4:3.**
 - They Don’t Believe All Of God’s Word- **2 Thessalonians 2:12; Acts 22:22-23.**

III. Nothing But The Truth.

- Truth Excludes All Other Things That Opposes It.
- Why David Said In **Psalm 119:104; 119:128.**
- We Should Desire Only Truth, And Not:
 - All Fables And Myths- **1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:4.**
 - Traditions Of Men- **Matthew 15:6-9; Colossians 2:8.**
 - False Teaching- **1 John 4:1 and 6; 2 John 9-11.**
 - False Science- **1 Timothy 6:20-21.**

Conclusion: Proverbs 23:23.