

INTRODUCTION

The words of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we find to be wholesome, healthful, good for us, especially spiritually. They are for our salvation, for our sanctification, for our comfort, for our edification or strengthening, and for our endurance or perseverance.

We find the words of Jesus Christ to be authoritative. He is our Lord, our Master. Why would we call Him, “Lord, Lord,” and not do what He says? That would be to build our house on sand.

We find the words of our Lord Jesus Christ to be both wholesome and authoritative, and so we consent to them, we agree with them.

We also agree with the doctrine that accords with godliness. This is not something entirely different from the words of Jesus Christ, but something that overlaps and is complementary. We who are repenting from sin and believing in Jesus have been brought by God into a state of godliness. We are worshiping Him, trusting Him, obeying Him. And there is teaching that goes with that godliness, doctrine that accords with godliness.

We consent to or agree with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine which accords with godliness. So these things are what we teach and exhort.

But in the congregation in Ephesus long ago, in the time of Paul and Timothy, as well as all around us today where we live, there were and are those people who do not consent to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the doctrine that accords with godliness. So they teach something else. They “other-teach.” In this part of 1 Timothy, our Lord’s apostle is warning us about them, that we may avoid such people rather than falling under their influence.

The word of God explains to us what kind of things are going on with such people. Understanding that will help us avoid their false doctrine. But it will help us resist temptation in our own hearts, also, temptation to go the way they are going, that instead we may be strengthened in the faith.

Let us be wary of three factors in false teaching, that we may avoid both the false teacher and the temptation to go that way ourselves.

TEXT

1 Timothy 6:3-4

BODY

One factor that contribute to false teaching is:

I. Pride or Conceit

- A. G5187 *tuphoo* most literally, to be “smoked;” consider how smoke behaves
 - 1. it rises up in height
 - 2. it billows out in size
 - 3. but there is no substance to it
- B. English translations
 - 1. TYN, GEN, ASV puffed up ESV puffed up with conceit
 - 2. KJV, NKJV proud
 - a) 1828 Webster: Inordinate self-esteem; unreasonable conceit of one’s own superiority
 - 3. CSB conceited
- C. A person does not agree with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine that accords with godliness, because he has too high an opinion of himself
 - 1. thinking of himself as next to or above the scriptures, instead of subject to them as the word of God
- D. Especially if a person is new
 - 1. 1 Timothy 3:6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

One factor that contribute to false teaching is pride or conceit

A second factor that contributes to false teaching is

II. Ignorance or Lack of Understanding

- A. G3367 *meden* G1987 *epistamenos* lit. nothing knowing
- B. 1 Timothy 1:7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.
- C. Often it is a case of someone learning something, which may very well be true, but not learning all the Bible says about that, and so misusing it
 - 1. Rom 6:14 ...you are not under the law, but under grace
 - 2. Isaiah 52:11 ...touch no unclean thing...
- D. In many cases, as of the Pharisees in the New Testament, especially Saul of Tarsus, a person might be extremely well educated, even in theology, even in the Bible, but still, in effect, know nothing, or not understand the essential truths that the Bible teaches

One factor that contribute to false teaching is pride or conceit

A second factor that contributes to false teaching is ignorance or lack of understanding

A third factor that contributes to false teaching is

III. Unhealthy Interest in Controversy

A. Questions or disputes or controversies

1. It is not wrong to ask questions, honest questions about important points;
 - a) one of the best things a teacher or a learner can do is to ask good questions, with a view to having them answered
 - b) but it is unwholesome to ask a never-ending series of questions, to avoid having things settled
2. It is not wrong to have a willingness to engage in controversy
 - a) But a healthy attitude is when you do not want controversy, but you are willing to engage in it if necessary for the cause of Jesus Christ
 - b) There is an abnormal, unhealthy desire for controversy
 - (1) in it you can seem knowledgeable, even when actually ignorant
 - (2) in it you can avoid the truth exposing your sin
3. hear the ways this is expressed
 - a) Greek word here means “sick”
 - b) GEN, he doteth about questions KJV doting about questions
 - (1) a dotard is a person who is not able to think well because of old age
 - (2) dotage is the part of a person’s life when he is too old to think well
 - (3) to dote about something is to have an unhealthy affection for or interest in something
 - (a) a doting father gives his little girl whatever she wants, and does whatever she tells him
 - (b) this negative connotation has been fading from our language, I think
 - c) NKJV he is obsessed with disputes
 - d) ESV he has an unhealthy craving for controversy
 - e) CSB he has an unhealthy interest in disputes

B. Sometimes this shows in a person just wrangling over words, always avoiding the substance of the Bible’s doctrine

1. Greek *logomachia* lit. word fighting
2. GEN, KJV strife of words
3. NKJV, ESV, CSB similar: arguments or quarrels over words
4. how this goes
 - a) you see how this is right, and this is wrong, don’t you?
 - b) well, you said this word, but I think it’s this word, and if you don’t say this word, then I don’t see how that applies
 - c) okay, well, let’s use your word then: you see how this is right, and this is wrong, don’t you?
 - d) well, now, you said this word, but what about this word?

[If time is up, I can conclude here for today.]

- IV. Example of Not Consenting to the Words of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- A. John chapter 3 - here are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
 - 2. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
 - B. 1 Timothy 1:16 - here is His apostle Paul consenting to or agreeing with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. 1 Tim 1:15 ...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...
 - 2. 1 Tim 1:16
 - a) ensample, pattern, example
 - b) for all who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life
 - 3. 1 Tim 1:13-14 here is the pattern
 - a) a man is sinning against God and other people
 - b) he is ignorant and unbelieving - he is not born again, and so can't see the kingdom of God
 - c) God shows him mercy - granting that Paul be born again by the Holy spirit
 - d) the grace of our Lord is exceedingly abundant, producing in the person faith and love which are in Christ Jesus
 - (1) in place of ignorance and unbelief, God gives faith in Christ Jesus
 - (2) in place of sin against God and other people, God gives love in Christ Jesus
 - C. Here is a man not consenting to or agreeing with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ; he preaches this
 - 1. you are hurt, abused, lonely, unhappy, scared
 - 2. Jesus Christ loves you, and He died to take away your hurt and sorrow
 - 3. you need to choose to have a relationship with Jesus
 - 4. if you want to be saved, just repeat the prayer that I tell you to say, asking Jesus to come into your heart
 - 5. now you are saved
 - D. Why is a person not agreeing with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ?
 - 1. he is proud - he thinks that he and the people he learns from know how to communicate the gospel better than Jesus Christ Himself and His apostles could
 - 2. he is ignorant - he does not understand how his preaching is just an appeal to people's emotions and their fleshly ideas about religion, and is nothing spiritual
 - 3. he has an unhealthy interest in controversy, and strife about words - try to convince him that faith cannot be the saying of a prayer, and he will bicker over words all day long, and never be willing truly to be convinced that salvation is by faith alone, not by works

[If time is up, I can conclude here for today.]

V. Example of Not Consenting to the Doctrine Which Accords with Godliness - Specifically for Men

- A. Here is the apostle Paul teaching and exhorting the doctrine that accords with godliness
1. 1 Timothy 2:8 I desire [will] therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;
 2. 1 Timothy 3:4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence
 3. 1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- B. Here is a man not consenting to doctrine that accords with godliness
1. you need to admit you are a racist and crusade for social justice
 2. you need to reduce your carbon footprint and buy solar panels and an electric car
 3. you need to acknowledge people's preferred pronouns
 4. you need to not have kids, or only 1 or 2, because the world is overcrowded
- C. Why is a person not consenting to the doctrine which accords with Godliness?
1. he is proud, puffed up, conceited
 2. he is ignorant, lacking understanding
 3. he is dotting about questions and strifes of words

VI. Example of Not Consenting to the Doctrine Which Accords with Godliness - Specifically for Women

- A. Here is the apostle Paul teaching and exhorting the doctrine that accords with godliness
1. 1 Timothy 2:9-15
 2. 1 Timothy 3:11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.
 3. 1 Timothy 5:9-10 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, (10) well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.
 4. 1 Timothy 5:14 Therefore I desire [will] that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
- B. Here is someone not agreeing with the doctrine that accords with godliness
1. as a woman, you should cut your hair short like a man's, or color it with some artificial color, or you should fix it in some elaborate or trendy hairdo---anything else but just having it long
 2. you should dress in what is showy, wearing either what is revealing, or trendy, or expensive
 3. you should wear lots of makeup and lots of jewelry
 4. if your husband and the men at church aren't giving effective leadership, you should take leadership
 5. the good works you should do for Jesus are volunteering to run programs at your church and your parachurch ministry organization
 6. you should teach, even preach at your church, because God has gifted women just as much as men, and because of Deborah
 7. if your husband does not make you happy, you should leave him, and find the one God has made to be your soul mate
 8. you don't want more than one or two children, and you want to have someone else raise them as much as possible; you need to go back to work instead of "just staying home"
- C. Why is a person not agreeing with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ?
1. the person is proud or puffed up with conceit - this person thinks his culture's values and norms should overrule what the Bible says
 2. the person is ignorant
 - a) knowing only a little of what the Bible says about men and women - Gal 3:28 ...there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus
 3. the person has an unhealthy interest in controversy, and strife about words
 - a) submission to your husband can be very scary
 - b) always arguing about various questions surrounding this is a way to avoid actually doing what the Bible says

CONCLUSION

Let us be wary of three factors in false teaching, that we may avoid both the false teacher and the temptation to go that way ourselves:

-pride or being puffed up with conceit

-ignorance or lack of understanding

-an unhealthy interest in controversy and strife over words

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Galatians 2:20

Dillon - Scripture Reading

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Journey - Prelude - Trinity 150 "All My Heart This Night Rejoices"

Rita - Trinity 676 "More About Jesus" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 122 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - Andrew lead

Allison - Trinity 441 "Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ"

VII. Example of Not Consenting to the Doctrine Which Accords with Godliness - General for All of Us

- A. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who ~~desires~~ [will have] all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- B. we pray for those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty
- C. we pray for all men, because God will have all men to be saved