

“Discerning Truth”



By Mrs. Sojourner

During this “Information Age” it seems that so much information is thrown at us through TV, radio, the internet, books, conversation etc., screaming “Believe me!” that it can be a challenge to know what information is truth, and what is opinion or just false.

So, you may ask, “How do we know what is truth and what is not?” Let’s go to the Word.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning...¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2,14 (NIV)

So, as the above scripture tells us, Jesus is the Word and he is full of truth. God so graciously provided us with the truth of his Word so we can use it to measure the things we see and hear as we go through life to see if there is truth in them.

¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from

the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. John 17:14-18 (NIV)

Notes: Jesus confirms here that the Word, the Bible, is truth. Numerous times throughout the scriptures God instructs his people to not just learn the scriptures, but to daily meditate on the scripture. Doing this incorporates the Word into our hearts and minds so that we can more easily ascertain which things that are Godly and which are not.

Many times The Sojourner has said that things that seem good are not always good, and what seems bad is sometimes good. Joseph did not consider the day he was sold into slavery a good day, but it brought about the salvation of his family from the drought. Dwelling on and leaning on the Word gives us the discernment we need.

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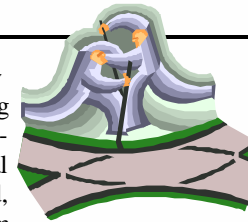
Sojourning

Vol. 8 No. 45 November 11, 2009

...with The Sojourner

“Disagreement” (Teaching Sketch)

Galatians 2:11-21



Conflict In The Body

Paul did not go looking for Peter but when Peter came to where Paul was, Paul withstood, resisted, opposed him on the issue not on his apostleship but his behavior and the issue created by Peter’s behavior.

<G436>withstood - anthis-temi—from <G473> (anti) and <G2476> (histemi); to stand against, i.e. oppose :- resist, withstand.

Notice he challenged Peter’s dual behavior not the ones who Peter was appeasing.

<2607>to be blamed--kataginosko—from <G2596> (kata) and <G1097> (ginosko); to note against, i.e. find fault with :- blame, condemn.

Conflict In The Body

Peter did not want to offend James since the men from James might say to James he had eaten with uncircumcised

Gentiles. Peter was motivated by FEAR!

Affecting The Group

Peter’s behavior also affected the other Jewish Believers to the point that even Barnabas who was with Paul was affected to the point of changing his behavior.

Notes:

[1]
Eph. 4:23
KJV

[2]
A habit is an over learned behavior.

This was not a matter of politics among believers to Paul, but a violation of the “*truth of the Gospel.*” Since this matter among leaders was done openly among Believers Paul dealt with it openly among believers. Peter was now following the freedom from the Law provided in Christ when with Gentiles but not when with Jews. Paul used the word *compellest* Gentiles to conform.

Jews by nature=birth

Paul points out they are justified by faith not by the works (behavior) of the law!

8-44

Justified by faith of Christ!

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Galatians 2:11-21 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹¹When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵"We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

¹⁷"If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a law-breaker. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Note
s:

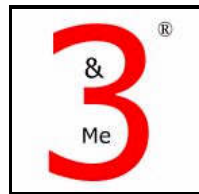
[a]

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**



"Disagreement" (Teaching Sketch)

Galatians 2:11-21

Paul points out the issue is Peter behaving as though the persons works justified the believer rather than faith in Christ.

Sinners By Condition
"also found sinners"—Paul was meaning the condition of mankind before being made a new creature in Christ. If Christ put Believers under the Law then Christ would be a minister of law toward those still remaining in the condition of sin. NO WAY!!!

Paul says that if he and they build upon the sand of the law which had been abandon for the more perfect new covenant (grace) he makes (proves) himself a breaker of the law and lost.

¹⁹for I through law, did die, that to God I may live; (Young's Literal Translation)

¹⁹For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. (NIV)

Christ <G5547> Christos— from <G5548> (chrio); *anointed*, i.e. the *Messiah*, an epithet of Jesus ; - Christ

Notes:
[a] Pistis-- faith - persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstract constancy in such profession; by extensive the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself :- assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.— Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Paul is saying when he became Christ's he died and is now a new creature, an anointed one with Christ residing in him. He now lives by the faith OF the Son of God! The faith of Christ is a gift given by Christ.

Faith

If we return to the law then Christ would be made as nothing and his work on the cross would have been for nothing and Believers would be in big trouble!

We would be blocking faith's function by going back under Law.

frustrate <G114> atheteo— from a compound of <G1> (a) (as a negative particle) and a derivative of <G5087> (tithemi); to set aside, i.e. (by implication) to disesteem, neutralize or violate :-

cast off,
despise,
disannul,
frustrate,
bring to nought,
reject.

Faith brings salvation and salvation the Blessing of the grace via the anointed one— Jesus the Christ!