The Dangers of Liberalism

Adam Willingham · 1 Corinthians 4:6

INTRODUCTION

- Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes. That you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written.
- The way to establish authority in anything, and it's no different with the Bible, is three ways. First of all, command or direct statement. Secondly, approved example. And thirdly, necessary inference.
- We're talking about taking liberties beyond what God's word authorizes. And I think we would all agree that is wrong.

1 The Attitude of Liberalism

Matthew 28

- It really is a mindset. It's never really about one issue. It's a mindset that will affect how a person views every issue.
- So it's a mindset that says, well, really, Bible authority isn't necessary.
- They will say, well, okay, maybe authority is important, but if the Bible doesn't say not to do it, specifically not to do that thing, then it's okay to do it.
- The end justifies the means. That's another aspect of this attitude.

2 The Sin of Liberalism

Deuteronomy 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; John 12:49–50

- It is a sin whenever we take liberties beyond what God's word authorizes.
- It wasn't that the Lord said don't do it. It was that he did not say to do it. And whatever the Lord says to do, everything else is excluded.
- Over and over in the Old Testament, God's hand is the heaviest when people pervert how to serve and worship God.
- You shall not add to the word which I command you.
- Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told me, so I speak.

3 Extreme Liberalism

Galatians 1; 1 Corinthians 14:34

- This is really the attitude of pretty much anything goes.
- If they are not really observing what the gospel truly teaches, then what is it? It's a different gospel.
- Not only does the Bible teach that men are to be an authority, but it also teaches in 1 Corinthians 14 34 that women in the churches are to remain silent.

4 Mainstream Liberalism

- Mainstream liberalism is not as extreme. It's a little bit more palatable. And it's more commonly practiced.
- For example, man-made creeds, man-made rules, man-made titles for clergy, father, reverend.
- Instrumental music in worship is another example. It's taking liberties beyond what God's word authorizes. Because the New Testament doesn't speak about using instruments. It speaks of singing.

5 Subtle Liberalism

Acts 20:28; Philippians 4:15–16; Acts 11:29–30

- This third category is perhaps the easiest to just slide through without people noticing. Because it's subtle.
- This liberalism is common among mainline or institutional churches of Christ.
- Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.
- The New Testament pattern of sending money is the church sending its money directly to the need.
- There's just no scriptural authority for sending church money to people who are not Christians.
- The work of the church is spiritual. It is not carnal.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **But we need to make sure that we, as a church, and we as individuals in our individual lives are living for Christ with passion, with zeal, and with joy.**

MY NOTES