The Way It Was

Robert Harkrider · Jeremiah 6:16

INTRODUCTION

- Ask for the old ways. The pathway that is good.
- While we may have the right form, we have lost sight of the right attitude and spirit and zeal that the New Testament disciples were like.

1 Wholehearted, They Opposed Error

Acts 4:32–34; Romans 12:15; Acts 15

- The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul.
- They were totally united, committed to the Lord and to one another.
- They were people who understood there was a difference between truth and error. And they opposed error.
- It matters what we preach, it matters what we practice. They had to learn truth from God and then to stand for it.

2 Changed Lives and One Faith

1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Ephesians 4:3–5

- They had turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.
- And such were some of you. But you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Spirit of our God.
- You never hear or read in the Bible, there are many faiths, just pick the one you like best.
- They all believed the same, were of one heart and one soul.

3 Common People Who Sought Converts

1 Corinthians 1:26–29; Acts 6; Acts 8

- Not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called.
- They simply were moved by the power of God's word, the gospel.
- They were filled with zeal to teach others. They sought converts.
- Persecution didn't make them stop preaching. Instead, it caused them even to go forward.

4 More to the Story: Extreme, and They Had Problems

Acts 4:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:18–19; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5

- Really they were militant. They were extremist about their faith.
- We ought to obey God rather than men.
- There must be heresies or factions among you, that they which are approved may be made known or made manifest.

- The purpose for discipline, even to the point of withdrawal of fellowship, is to make some corrections.

5 Former Ties Upset; Choosing Between Doctrines

Matthew 10:34–37; Revelation 2; 1 John 4:1–3

- He who loves son and daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- Any other relationship, even that of your parents or of your children, Christ should be first.
- Do you realize they had to choose between doctrines?
- Beloved, test the spirits. Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they be of God, for many false prophets are gone out into the world.

6 Unpolished Teachers; Converts, Not Members

1 Corinthians 2; 2 Corinthians 10:10; Luke 14:26–33

- I came not to you with the wisdom of men. But I preached to you Christ and Him crucified.
- A member is the kind of person who, well, he comes when it's convenient. But converts look forward to every opportunity.
- Members complain and murmur about various little things. Converts act to change things that need changing.
- Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has. He cannot be my disciple.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I ask you, where would you have been? Would these descriptions fit you had you lived 2,000 years ago?**

MY NOTES