

The Lord Didn't, So Why Do You?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 12:1, "At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day."

I believe one of the main things that troubles the church today is the fault finding that divides those who believe in the Lord. Instead of seeking unity like the Lord told his people to do, the church, the believers, are fractured and divided both spiritually and physically. This has left us weak and without much respect and witness in the world. **Ephesians 4:3,** "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." This is clear, so there is no excuse for our not doing what the Lord said for us to do.

Rather than walk with God and obeying him many have done as the flesh has led them. This has brought about the divided and disorganized believers with each group thinking that it has done the will of God. Some feel that if another individual, or group, doesn't do exactly like them then they aren't even saved. Does that sound like the Pharisee in **Luke 18** or the thought express in

Isaiah 65:5?

We that believe in Jesus and trust in the grace and mercy of God are called to witness and to serve the Lord. Nowhere are we told to find fault and to condemn those who we don't personally care for. That doesn't stop man from doing it because he doesn't think it is wrong when he does it. Did you ever hear someone say, "I don't mean to judge, but..." Then they pass judgment on someone and feel like they have done a good thing.

Some even find fault with someone, not for breaking God's commands, but for some man-made tradition. Really? This is not new because it happened when Jesus walked on the earth.

Matthew 15:1-3, "Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" Once again the Lord is saying that God didn't find fault with them for this, man did. We might ask the question. "What is the result of man's judgment?"

The answer is, like all correct answers, in scripture. **Romans 2:1,** "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." So the self-appointed judge

has only condemned himself. There are many other scriptures that warn us about taking it upon ourselves to judge someone. In doing so a man tries to usurp the authority of God and it will only bring him into condemnation, not from man, but from God himself.

1 Corinthians 4:3, "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self." While man's judgment and fault finding has no value, it does do harm to weak brethren. The judgment of God is valid and true and will cause a person to be lost if he doesn't repent and find forgiveness from the Lord.

On the subject of finding fault with someone, have you ever noticed that we are more tolerant of those that are our friends than we are of people that we don't particularly like? It seems to be easier to overlook things in our family, or friends. Do we agree with everything and everyone in our own congregation? I doubt that we do. We may feel that some don't come as often, or take as much interest in worship as we feel that they should. On the other hand there may be some who do things that we feel are wrong, but they don't see any harm in them.

We need to stand on what the bible says. God's word is not for man to change by leaving out parts of it, or by adding to it. If the question is about something that the scriptures don't say then we need to be quiet and not act like we know more than we do.

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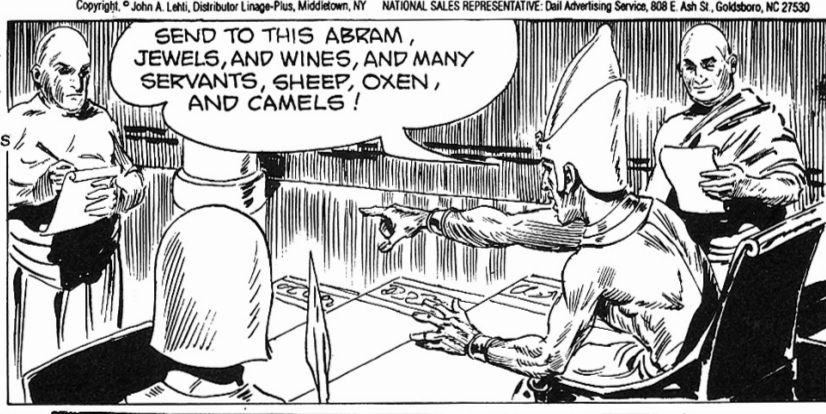
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