

A One Way Street

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Sometimes it is said that Christians are narrow minded. And that they, at least most, don't change with the times and the new norms of society. These, and many other things, are said about those who believe in the Lord and do their best to follow his commands. To some extent the charges are true.

If we really believe what God has said and intend to obey him, we cannot go along with whatever men may want us to do. A few years ago I read in the newspaper where a "minister" said that Paul was wrong in his teaching about women. If that were true then he doesn't believe that Paul was writing under the direction of the Holy Spirit, but would have been writing his own beliefs and thoughts. Then how could he believe anything else that Paul wrote? It is a one way

street, either you believe the bible, or you believe none of it. To pick and choose from the Word of God is to say that only certain parts of it are trustworthy and the rest is false. I look at it this way, if you lie to me once then I will doubt anything else that you say.

Fortunately God is not man that he should, or would, lie to us. Man will, but God will not for he is just that - God. It is said that men lie, either for fear, to impress, or to gain something. God is not subject to any of these pathetic ways of man. He tells us what we need to know so that we may live for him. Whether we do it or not is up to us. We are given the opportunity to be saved and to live with him forever, but we are not forced to do so.

If we make the choice to believe in him and to live for him then we are saying that we are going to go his way. We must change our direction in life and follow him. He will lead us in the paths of righteousness, never in sin. Psalms 23:3. The path of righteousness leads in only one way, to heaven. There are no side roads and no shortcuts on the path that he has set for us. Those who say that you can follow, or not, as you choose and still

make it to heaven are not of God. He leads in one direction only and will not change for anyone.

There is a song that says, "The way of the cross leads home." This is true and it is also true that the way of the cross is the only way. That is the way of Jesus and will lead us to him if we follow him and obey his words. So many folks say that they believe and obey Jesus and will then lie to you; tell you that you don't have to do what the Lord commanded. They are taking a spiritual detour, telling themselves, and any who will listen, that it is alright. It is not alright with God to do anything else, but to obey his word.

Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Yes, the way to sin and evil is wide with room for many lies, doctrines, and evil deeds. However the way to life is narrow since it only needs one way, the truth. There is no room for things that are false. Remember there are many ways to lie, but there is only one truth.

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SAMSON, THE SON OF MANOAH, OF THE TRIBE OF DAN, IS ONE OF THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF DOMINATION BY THE PHILISTINES, HOLDING THIS OFFICE FOR TWENTY YEARS (JUDGES 13:5). HIS AUTHORITY SEEMS TO HAVE EXTENDED ONLY OVER HIS OWN TRIBE AND HIS ACTION AS A DELIVERER OF ISRAEL FROM THE PHILISTINE BONDAGE DOES NOT GO BEYOND A FEW DESULTORY ATTACKS UPON THE PHILISTINES.

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF GOD AS A NAZARITE BY HIS MOTHER FROM TIME OF BIRTH, SAMSON'S HISTORY SHOWS HIM A FUN-LOVING FELLOW WHOSE LIFE STYLE WAS BOISTEROUS INDULGENCES AMONG THE PHILISTINES, THEMSELVES. HIS MARRIAGE TO A PHILISTINE WOMAN AND LOVE FOR RIDDLES AND PRACTICAL JOES ONLY LED TO DISASTER FOR HIS WIFE AND HER FAMILY. HIS GREAT STRENGTH SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY THING THAT SAVED HIM ON THE NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WHEN HIS PENCHANT FOR DANGEROUS LIVING GOT HIM INTO TROUBLE. SUCH A MANNER OF LIVING COULD ONLY END DISASTEROUSLY, AS IT DID FOR SAMSON, WHEN, BLINDED AND USED AS A SLAVE BY HIS ENEMIES, HE EXERTED HIS GREAT STRENGTH IN AN ACT OF PERSONAL REVENGE UPON HIS TORMENTORS BY CAUSING THE COLLAPSE OF A TEMPLE IN WHICH THE PHILISTINES WERE FEASTING TO THEIR GOD, DAGON. IT IS NOTED THAT WITH SAMSON'S DEATH THREE THOUSAND PHILISTINES WERE ALSO DESTROYED—BUT ONE WONDERS HOW MUCH MORE SAMSON MIGHT HAVE ACHIEVED IN HIS LIFE HAD HE CONFINED HIS AGILE THINKING AND ENORMOUS STRENGTH TO THE DEDICATED LIFE OF A TRUE NAZARITE INSTEAD OF... "A-WHORING AFTER THE DAUGHTERS OF THE PHILISTINES".

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