

## Someone Is Wrong

We're living in a time when many say it is wrong to tell someone else that he or she is wrong. Did you catch the irony in that statement? According to this way of thinking, if I tell someone that he or she is wrong, it is right for you to tell me I am wrong in so doing. You are not alone if you fail to see the logic in that. Nowhere is this way of thinking more evident than in spiritual matters. The "heart" seems to have become the standard in this realm. As long as the "heart" is right and one is trying to serve God as his or her "heart" dictates, then there is no wrong and no one has the right to make a judgment. As lovely as that sounds, the fact of the matter is that God's Word, not the "heart" is still the standard of judgment (John 12:48) and, like it or not, God's Word clearly shows that sometimes we are wrong.

Paul told some Christians in Galatia that they were wrong in that they were trying to live under the Old Testament law rather than the law of Christ. He said, "ye are fallen from grace." (Galatians 5:4). Now, here's where someone today will say, "But that was a Divinely inspired apostle saying that. You are not an apostle. You have no right to make a judgment like that." So let me ask a question or two. If I know someone today who is trying to live under the Old Testament commands (e.g., the ten commandments), and I quote Galatians 5:4 to them, is it me or Divine inspiration making that judgment? "But that's just your interpretation," someone objects. Again I ask, if I see the same thing happening as happened in the context of Galatians 5:4 and I say the same thing as the Divinely inspired apostle, am I not just repeating the judgment that has already been made? How could that possibly be my interpretation? Suppose the weatherman says, "The sky is filled with dark clouds. It's going to rain and you will get wet if you go out today." Later in the day I call a friend and say, "The weatherman says, 'The sky is filled with dark clouds. It's going to rain and you will get wet if you go out today.'" In saying this, have I given my interpretation of what the weatherman said or have I just repeated what he said? The answer is obvious.

Jesus said time and time again that some are going to be lost in eternity. Many are going to eternal destruction (Matthew 7:13,14). Not everyone who says they follow God will go to heaven (Matthew 7:21-23). Some will go into everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46). In the context of each of these passages, as well as others that could be cited, Jesus made clear the actions or inactions that will lead some into eternal hell. If I, as a Christian, see someone in these sins and I warn him or her of the eternal consequences of these sins and quote the Word of God, is it me or the Word of God making the judgment? Again, if I am quoting the Word of God, are the words coming from my mouth my interpretation or am I merely repeating what the Lord has already said?

Dear friends, not everyone is following God and, if they are not, they are wrong. Those who have never obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ are wrong and will be lost if they do not obey (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). Those who are walking by their feelings and not by the faith once delivered by the Lord are wrong and will be lost if they do not obey, even if they do feel they are right (Matthew 7:21-23). Those who have become Christians but have gone back into the world are wrong and will be lost if they do not come back (II Peter 2:20-22). The New Testament is our standard of judgment and if we are not obeying the law of Christ then we are going to lose our souls. To borrow the words of Marshall Keeble, "The Bible is right. You can go home and fuss all night. The Bible is right. You can walk the streets and call Keeble a fool. The Bible is right. You can go home and have spasms. The Bible is right." Paul wrote, "let God be true, but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4).

Our earthly courts regularly make judgments that show someone is wrong. The heavenly court does and will do the same. "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." (Colossians 3:25). Spiritually speaking, the only way to be right is to walk with God according to His inspired Word. It can be done, but first we have to have the humility to admit wrong in our lives (Luke 13:3).

Mike Gifford  
Gifford7777@yahoo.com