

July Questions / Answers

**The following questions are taken from emails and are printed below exactly as I received them. Names and contact information have been removed. The answers are in note form (sorry for any of my grammar errors) to be studied through. You'll have to examine each Scripture below to see the points. Please be mindful that there are often circumstances and details to every question that could potentially change the answer (there are generally no blanket answers to Bible questions).*

1. "Who were the little children in 1 Jhn 5:21?"

- It is just terminology used to describe followers of Christ (start in verse 18). Sometimes as babes in Christ or just in general. As you study through the Scriptures you see that those whom are followers of Christ are referred to at times as "little children" in various figures of speech (**Matthew 18:3, Matthew 19:14, John 13:31-35, Galatians 4:19, I John 2:1, I John 2:12-13; 18; 28; 3:7-10; 18; 4:1-5**).
- The phrase can/could/has been used to signify the innocence of the faithful (**Luke 18:16**; cf. **I Corinthians 14:20** and **I Peter 2:1-2**).

2. "We have a member of our congregation that is struggling with getting along with the preacher. The two of them wont get along very good. He has started asking for signatures from some of us on a formal request to remove the preacher from the pulpit. I dont have much like for the preacher neither. He does speak the truth though. I have met with him and told him that I dont feel its right to make a petition against the preacher. I dont read that in my bible. He said that in Acts they wrote letters to a congregation telling them to send away their preachers. Is that true?"

- There is a scriptural method for dealing with differences amongst brethren (**Matthew 18:15-17**). What you are alleging is NOT scriptural.
- It does not appear to me that this is about something the preacher is teaching. If so, and he were faithful, us preachers are accustomed to being mistreated when we teach the truth (**II Corinthians 12:15**).
- One or both of them (and you), **if** your report is accurate, is/are violating various Scriptural requirements of saints (**Romans 12:10, Romans 12:16, Romans 12:18, I Corinthians 1:10, I Corinthians 12:25, Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 2:1-8, Colossians 3:12-15, Philippians 4:1-2, I Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:1, I John 3:11-16**, etc.).
- What you "feel" is not the standard (**Luke 4:4, Luke 11:28, John 12:48, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:15-17, and I Peter 4:11**).
- If your report about this man using the book of Acts to raise up a petition against the preacher is true, he is twisting Acts 15. Read Acts 15. That is NOT what happened. Twisting the Scriptures and using them to cause division is a matter in which **MUST** be dealt with Scripturally (**Romans 16:17-18, Titus 1:10-14, and Titus 3:9-11**).
- Ultimately, on one or both sides, there is carnality going on (**Galatians 5:19-21**). Such **MUST** be dealt with **if** your report is accurate!
- What do you mean by saying "my Bible"? Is that just a figure of speech for you or are you saying something else?

3. "Can people get to a point where they do not care about what is right?"

- Yes, (**Ephesians 4:17-19** and **I Timothy 4:1-2**).

- You can see this in the Jews (**Matthew 27:24-26** and **Acts 7:51-60**).
- A person can get to the point wherein his or her conscience can become defiled [stained, contaminated] wherein they cannot do what is right (**Titus 1:15-16**).

4. "Is confessing Jesus to be saved a contradiction to the need to be baptized? Example, does 1 John 4:15 contradict Acts 2:38?"

- No, confessing Christ is not a contradiction. **I John 4:15**, in context, is about those who had the Holy Spirit confessing the Christ. A person with any other spirit could not confess Christ (**I John 4:1-3**).
- Prior to conversion into Christ (including being baptized), a person must confess Christ (**Acts 8:26-39** and **Romans 10:9-10**).
- After conversion into Christ a person who has already been baptized, such as those addressed in the first letter of John you referenced by implication (**I John 3:22-24**; cf. **Acts 8:12-24** and **Acts 19:1-7**), we must continue confessing Christ (**I John 2:22-23**).
- No single Scripture told anyone everything they had to do to be saved. All Scriptures must be used to come to the proper conclusion (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).

5. "Does 1 Corinthians 7:15 give a brother or sister the right to remarry in that case?"

- No! Remarriage is not permitted in that context. The fact is, the opposite is contextually stated (**I Corinthians 7:10-11**).
- Remarriage is only considerable in a specific situation (**Matthew 5:31-32** and **Matthew 19:1-12**).

6. "I have a family member that is not a Christian. She has stabbed me in the back and has done bad things to me. My family says I am not being very Christian because I am holding a grudge by not forgiving her. She keeps doing these things so I don't see how I can forgive her. Am I holding a grudge by not just letting her ruin my life further by bein in it?"

- It is very difficult to comment on this question without knowing what you are talking about (**Proverbs 18:13**). Furthermore, I am not sure what you mean by using the term grudge. The only time the term "grudge" is used in the New Testament, in the KJV, is in **James 5:9**. There it means "to sigh, murmur, pray inaudibly - with grief, groan..." (Strong's # 4727).
- Let me say this, the Lord expects His true followers to forgive in the same way that He forgives (**Ephesians 4:32**).
- Our Lord forgives sins that are confessed and truly repented of (**Proverbs 28:13**, **Luke 13:1-5**, and **I John 1:9**).
- For clarity, see **Luke 17:1-4**
- Division in families is expected by Christ and is part of faithful service to God (**Matthew 10:34-39**). If it comes down to choosing between pleasing the Lord and have a relationship with a family member, the Lord expects you to choose Him over them (**Luke 14:25-33**).
- Consider this: <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/wecannotforgivemoreorlessthango012013byeager.htm>