

May 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. "I have been a member of the Church for 47 yrs. I have learned from Ferrell Jenkins, Don Truex, and Homer Hailey. Men you are not worthy to polish the shoes of. In all of mine years learning from greatness, I have never heard a preacher say that God doesn't work the same way today as he did in the first century. That tells me you are way off base. Who taught you that God changed the way he works?"

- There is so much wrong with what you have written that I cannot even fathom trying to answer it all. Your desire to follow men infers that you cannot be taught (**Matthew 15:1-14**).
- Being a member of "the Church" for any period of time makes you nothing. The woman called "Jezebel" was a member of the congregation in Thyatira, that didn't make her faithful (**Revelation 2:18-23**). Diotrephes was a member of the church, but he was evil (**III John 1:9-11**). Fornicators and all other manners of sinners have been "members of the church", but they were lost in their states of sin (**I Corinthians 5:1-13**). All you can say about your 47 years in whatever denominational church of Christ you are a member of is that you are just as lost now as you were before.
- Your statement concerning who you have learned from, again, has so much wrong it.
 - *The men you are following were/are false teachers that have been marked and should be avoided (**Romans 16:17-18**). Amongst their errors they are/were twisters of Romans 14, erringly associated with Florida College [which is sinful: <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/studyofinstitutionalism.htm>], practicers of the false doctrine of unity in diversity, and a host of other issues (**II John 1:6-11**).
 - *The usage of names and the blind following of men is a sinful practice, even IF those were faithful men (**I Corinthians 1:10-17**, **I Corinthians 3:1-6**, **I Corinthians 3:21-4:6**, **Galatians 1:6-10**, etc.).
 - *Your statement about polishing their shoes and learning from greatness shows that you have elevated these men to the status of Christ (**Matthew 3:1-13** and **Acts 13:24-33**). How soul damning that is! Jesus is the only name and way wherein you may access the Father (**John 14:6** and **Acts 4:10-12**).
 - *It is a shame that demons get it more than you do (**Acts 19:11-17**).
 - *Furthermore, you are a sinful respecter of persons (**James 2:9-12**).
- God taught me, through His written word (**II Timothy 3:14-17**), that He has changed the way He works (even during the first century). Consider this pattern seen through the whole text of the Scriptures...
 - *You cannot read the first three chapters of the Bible and ignore that there are many changes right from the jump (**Genesis 1-3**).
 - *There was a time wherein there was no written law (**Genesis 1:1-Exodus 19**). Then the Law of Moses and the prophets (**Exodus 20:1-Malachi 4:6**).
 - *The congregation of Israel met with the Lord in a portable tent, then God later had them build a temple in Jerusalem (**Exodus 40:1-38** and **II Chronicles 3:1-17**).
 - *John came preparing the way (**Mark 1:1-8**).

- *At this time the teaching of God began to change (**Matthew 11:13** and **Luke 16:16**).
- *Then came Jesus teaching (**Mark 1:14-15**).
- *Then Jesus appointed Apostles and sent them out teaching (**Matthew 10:1-15**).
- *Then Jesus had to die, for several reasons, one in which the change of His departure and the coming of the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles (**John 16:1-13**).
- *Then the Law of Moses was nailed to the cross and the Law of Christ began to be taught and established (**Romans 7:1-6**, **Colossians 2:6-15**, and **Hebrews 9:15-10:18**).
- *In the meantime, before the changes of Laws, there were changes within changes (i.e. **Matthew 5:17-48**; **19:1-12**).
- *There was a change in the priesthood (**Hebrews 7:1-28** and **I Peter 2:5-9**).
- *The Jews were then the first one's preached to (**Luke 24:47** and **Acts 2:1-47**).
- *Later came the Gentiles (**Acts 10:1-11:18**).
- *Spiritual gifts were given by the Apostles laying hands on those whom obeyed the Gospel and their receiving of the Spirit through that action (**Acts 8:12-24** and **Acts 19:1-7**).
- *Those spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit, after the laying on of the Apostles hands, were temporary (**I Corinthians 12:3-13:13**). Much of the New Testament writings need to be understood based upon the Holy Spirit's direct working on the saints.
- *Things continued to be revealed, until that was completed, and then no additions were/are to come (**Revelation 22:18-19**).
- *That is, until Christ returns to meet us in the sky (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**) and many more changes take place (**Romans 14:11-12**, **I Corinthians 15:20-57**, **I Thessalonians 1:7-9**, **II Peter 3:10-14**, etc.).
- *This was a very short list (not even discussing Holy Spirit baptism that ended, etc.). Yet, you can see there were MAJOR changes in how God worked even in the first century. If you back up into the "Old Testament" you see that God changed how He worked then too. If you would become a Bible student, instead of a follower of men, you would see that. As Jesus told the erring Jews, you should search the Scriptures and learn the truth (**John 5:39**) rather than worship at the feet of men. Yet, you appear to err as the first century Jews did (**John 12:36-43**).
- For those studying through this... Sometimes people read **Malachi 3:6** or **Hebrews 13:8** and think that means nothing changes. God's character remains unchanged. His works and the way He worked has changed (**Hebrews 1:1-2**).

2. "What scriptures teach us how to receive other Christians who are not walking worthy? Paul says in 1 Cor 1, with all those in who in every place call upon the name of our Lord so is that meaning as long as they name Jesus and have been baptized they are in our faith?"

- It is a command to walk worthy (**Ephesians 4:1-6**, **Colossians 1:10**, and **I Thessalonians 2:12**). Thus, it is sinful not to do so (**I John 3:4**). An unrepentant sinner is lost (**Luke 13:1-5** and **Romans 6:23**).
- The Scriptures teach you to correct those who are not walking worthy (**Luke 17:3-4**, **Galatians 2:11-17**, **Galatians 6:1-2**, **James 5:19-20**, and **Jude 1:22-23**) and if they

refuse such correction you are to withdraw yourself from them (**Matthew 18:15-17**, **Romans 16:17-18**, **I Corinthians 5:1-13**, **II Thessalonians 3:6-15**, **I Timothy 6:3-5**, and **II Timothy 3:3-5**).

- Those that “call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord” are those whom are following righteousness, faith, love, and peace amongst other things (**II Timothy 2:19-22**). Much more than just those whom have been immersed in water.

3. “Do you greet one another with a holy kiss. (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thes 5:26; 1 Pet 5:14)?”

- No. I do not know what the holy kiss was to properly follow it and I have NEVER met anyone who can Scripturally explain it. To do something without knowing what I am doing is sinful (**Romans 14:23** and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).
- Is it kissing feet (**Luke 7:45**)? What? Love could mean mouth to mouth (**Song of Solomon 1:2**). We just don’t know what it was. We are left to conclude it was customary since God did not spell it out for future obedience.

4. “Our congregation has several women that want to teach. So the elders have decided to have a second bulletin called “The Woman’s Corner” and a ladies class taught by the 3 women that want to be teachers. I believe this is the first step to having women preaching. Am I over reacting?”

- This is a scary question. I have a lot of questions that come to mind. Why a bulletin? Where is this class to be held? Why are the elders involved? Is there a reason why you think this is a first step towards women preaching where you are? Are these faithful, mature sisters in Christ that want to teach because younger women need to learn something? Are these women displaying signs of concern that imply their desire to teach is a problem (i.e. **I Kings 21:25**, **Nehemiah 13:26**, **Proverbs 21:9**, **Proverbs 22:14**, **Proverbs 25:24**, and **Revelation 2:20-23**). Have you expressed this concern to the elders? If you are overreacting that is likely going to come to light if you talk to qualified elders. If the elders aren’t really qualified, this issue is the least of your problems.
- There is a limited role of teaching for godly women (**I Timothy 2:11-12** and **Titus 2:3-5**). Godly women are precious (**Proverbs 12:4**), but rare (**Proverbs 31:10-31** and **Ecclesiastes 7:28**).
- If you have qualified elders [which is HIGHLY UNLIKELY today] (**I Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**), I am not going to question their wisdom in this. Their role is to shepherd and they have the authority to do so (**Hebrews 13:17** and **I Peter 5:1-4**). I do not know all of the situation to comment further (**Proverbs 18:13**).

5. “I have left the congregation I am a member of in North Carolina. I am about to give up on the Church entirely. I cannot find a congregation anywhere that doesn’t have constant strife. I stumbled on your website. I think it is interesting. I could see how such a strict approach could prevent strife but I could also see how it could generate it. Is there strife where you are? Has there ever been? How do you handle it?”

- Why have you left the congregation in North Carolina? Why are you about to give up on the Lord’s body? I cannot speak much to this (**Proverbs 18:13**).

- Strife [contention] has long been a problem that creeps in amongst the Lord's church (**I Corinthians 1:11; 3:1-3, Philipians 1:15, and III John 1:9-11**).
- Such strife is to be avoided (**I Timothy 6:3-5 and Titus 3:9-11**).
- Yet, to give up on the body of Christ [the church; **Ephesians 1:22-23**] is to throw away your salvation (**Ephesians 5:23**).
- As long as this world exists there will be those who creep in amongst the faithful to try and divide and conquer. You have to find the right congregation that will fight against that (**Jude 1:3-4**), expose it and remove it (**Romans 16:17-18**).
- I am not sure what you mean by a "strict approach". There is that which is good and that which is evil (**John 5:28-29**). Figuring out what is acceptable to God is a work in itself for it requires rightly dividing the word of God (**II Timothy 2:14-18**). It's not always simple. Yet, the approach is always the same - what does the Lord want (**II Corinthians 5:14-15, Ephesians 5:10; 17, and Revelation 4:11**)?
- Strife is preventable (**James 3:13-18**). When a problem arises here, and they do from time to time, we allow the Scriptures to be the final and only answer (**Matthew 4:4, John 6:63, I Thessalonians 4:1-2, II Timothy 1:13; 3:14-17, and II John 1:9**).
- In allowing the Scriptures to reveal how to deal with issues, we examine each issue individually from the Scriptures. Then we follow God's way of dealing with it. Example, if a private matter - **Matthew 18:15-17**. If a public matter - **I Timothy 5:20**. If repentance does not occur - **Romans 16:17-18 and II Thessalonians 3:6**. If it is a matter of a weak conscience (not understanding authorized liberties) that needs instruction and forbearance - **Romans 14:1-15:7**. ... AND SO ON with many other possibilities. The Scriptures always being the guide.