

October 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. "Did Jesus teach that you go to hell for calling someone a fool?"

- No. He taught this which is often what is misunderstood: "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire*" (**Matthew 5:21-22**). A brother is one DOING the will of the Father (**Matthew 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35, and Luke 8:19-21**). You cannot curse or call a person who is doing what is pleasing to God a fool.
- Jesus called people fools (**Matthew 23:17; 19, Luke 11:40, and Luke 24:25**). We are to follow His example (**I Peter 2:21 and I John 2:3-6**). He never sinned (**Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 7:14-26, and I John 3:5**).
- Paul called people, even erring Christians, fools (**I Corinthians 15:35-36 and Galatians 3:1-3**). We are to follow His example (**I Corinthians 4:16; 11:1**).
- As with all things, let the Scriptures define what a fool is (**II Timothy 3:14-17**) and use the charge correctly. Know who a fool really is (i.e. **Psalms 14:1; 53:1; 92:5-6, Proverbs 10:8; 23; 12:15-16; 14:16; 15:5; 17:7; 18:7, Luke 12:13-21, etc.**).

2. "Can it be said that we are in fellowship with God when we please him?"

- Yes, (**John 14:15-24, John 17:20-23, I Corinthians 1:9, I John 1:3-7, and II John 1:9**).

3. "I know that antichrist is come already and is in the world. I know that antichrist does not mean the world is going to end right away. What I do not know is if antichrist is a human or extraterrestrial. Is the antichrist human?"

- You should know that there is not one antichrist (**I John 2:18**).
- An antichrist is anyone [a person] who refuses to confess Christ, denies Christ, denies the doctrine of Christ (**I John 2:22, I John 4:1-5, and II John 1:7-11**).
- Consider: **Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23**

4. "The apostles' preaching focused on the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Why are so many sermons today based on other subjects?"

- You are incorrect. The Apostles' teaching focused on what was needed for any particular person or audience (**Acts 4:1-6:7, Acts 11:1-18, Acts 14:22, Acts 15:1-38, Acts 19:1-8, Acts 20:13-35, Acts 20:17-31, I Corinthians 11:2, etc.**).
- People who had not learned of Christ were those whom were taught about the death and following events with Jesus (**Acts 2:5-41, Acts 3:1-26, Acts 10:1-48, Acts 17:1-4, etc.**).

- Even some sermons which discussed the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ emphasized other things (**Acts 13:13-52** and **Acts 17:16-33**).
- Proper teaching is about what needs to be taught the most to the people listening or reading (**Jude 1:3-4**). When you read what the Apostles wrote to saints in the first century (**I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians**, etc.), it was FAR different than what they taught to non-Christians (**Acts 2, Acts 10**, etc.).
- Christians MUST move on from needing to hear about things such as the resurrection (**Hebrews 5:12-6:3**). Thus, preaching amongst the saints is not going to be anything like preaching amongst people of the world.
- Consider... It would be absolutely ignorant to teach a non-Christian how to pray, worship in general, live as a disciple, etc. when God is not even hearing them (**Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12**). Thus, you would teach that person how to get into Christ and then teach them what to do as a Christian in life and worship. Think of what the Apostles were expected to do and notice the stages of those teachings: *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”* (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
- Even the message of conversion for a person of the world and for a saint fallen from the faith are different (**Acts 8:4-39 / Revelation 2:1-7**).
- I follow the instructions of God for me as an evangelist as to what I am to preach and teach (**Acts 20:26-27** and **II Timothy 4:1-5**).

5. “What does it mean that becoming fellowcitizens with the saints?”

- The term “fellowcitizens” appears in **Ephesians 2:19**.
- The context is in reference to how Gentiles in Ephesus, once unable to be the people of God under the Law of Moses, had been converted and were joined with the people of God [saints] (**Ephesians 2:1-20**).
- Anyone, Jew or Gentile, living or dead, having been converted into Christ is now a citizen in the kingdom of Heaven (**Colossians 1:12-24** and **Hebrews 12:22-28**), the household of God; the church (**I Timothy 3:15** and **Hebrews 3:1-6**).
- Saints are the people of God (**Psalms 89:7**). Now, in this dispensation, being a saint is the equivalent of being a member of the church, the body of Christ (**I Corinthians 1:2**).