

Which Side Are You On?

(Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23)

“Error or Truth”

1. The Error Side: “I genuinely fear that too many disciples, especially those who have fallen victim to the wiles of Satan through sectarianism and factionalism, have a perception that the Day of Judgment will be a time when the Lord God will want to know what kind of music was or wasn't employed in a "worship service," how many cups were employed, what version of the Bible one used, whether saints ate in a building or not, whether they had a kitchen or fellowship hall, if they supported orphanages or colleges out of the local "treasury," if they had a Sunday School, and other "weighty matters" of LAW. In reality, **not a one of these things are relevant to our eternal destiny**”

(<http://www.zianet.com/maxey/reflx386.htm>).

2. The Error Side: “How often is the Lord's supper eaten? It is expected that every member of the church will assemble for worship on each Lord's day. A central part of the worship is the eating of the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7). **Unless providentially hindered**, each member considers this weekly appointment as binding. In many instances, as in the case of illness, the Lord's supper is carried to those who are hindered from attending the worship”

(<http://www.nschurchofchrist.org/pages/beliefs.html>).

3. The Error Side: “If the **Guardian of Truth** continues in its heritage of boldly proclaiming the gospel of Christ without compromise, may God bless its efforts and extend its usefulness” (Guardian of Truth Magazine; *Gospel Preaching*, *Gospel Preachers*, *Gospel Papers*; *The Heritage of the Guardian of Truth*; July 20, 1995; pages 433-436).

1. The Side of Truth:

- Judgment will be about our obedience (**John 5:28-29; 12:48; 15:10, Acts 17:22-30, II Thessalonians 1:7-9, I John 2:17, II John 8-9, and Revelation 22:14**).
- Our worship matters to God (**Numbers 9:6-8, John 4:23-24, Colossians 2:18-23, and Revelation 22:8-9**).
- God tells us to sing, not play (**Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Acts 16:25, Romans 15:9, I Corinthians 14:15**, etc.).
- How many cups is important (**Luke 22:17**).
- Having authority for the work of the church and individual is important (**Luke 4:4 and Colossians 3:17**).
- Is any version of the Bible really okay (**Proverbs 30:5-6, Galatians 1:6-12, and Revelation 22:18-19**)?

2. The Side of Truth:

- Would God really do something to you to hinder you from obeying **Hebrews 10:25, Romans 12:4-5**, etc.? That is what “providentially hindered” would mean.
- Is the L.S. takeout ready (**Acts 20:7**)?

3. The Side of Truth:

- Isn't the church the only organization authorized in inspiration as the guardian of truth (**I Timothy 3:15**)?

4. The Error Side: "Since we all still believe in the deity of Christ, and the necessity of baptism, that we must not dictate where Christ has not dictated, and that some of the brethren who are pushing for division over instrumental music are guilty of murderous stifling of free thought and free speech. We insist that Rom. 14 allow that very large liberty that we have no right to trench on" (Isaac Errett of the "Christian Church" Editor, Christian Standard). "My comments here will be based on **Romans 14:1 -- 15:13**. This section of Paul's most sublime epistle deals with **doctrinal differences among baptized believers**" (Rubel Shelly, "A Call to Action," 11/3/94, ACU). "The issue in **Romans 14 is precisely the establishment of the right of brethren to differ in matters of faith**" (Ed Harrell; *The Bounds of Christian Unity* (3), Christianity Magazine, April, 1989, p. 6).

5. The Error Side: "The message is difficult to undermine: the "covering" Paul speaks of in verse 5 cannot be "long hair" since the wife ought to have "short hair" if she does not wear the "covering!" Therefore, one can very easily conclude from this passage that a woman should wear a covering if praying or prophesying" (<http://www.deusvitae.com/faith/thechristianexaminer/volume03/number06.html - message>).

6. The Error Side: "Brian, I say this as a friend and one spiritually interested in you, I believe you are exhibiting a trend of getting hung up on mere **technicalities and missing the big picture**. I have observed this regarding several matters, the Lord's Supper is just one" (Don Martin; email; 11/9/2006).

4. The Side of Truth:

- All that matters for unity is to agree that Jesus is deity according to errorists. But, consider Scriptures (**Romans 12:16, Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 1:10, II Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27; 2:2; 3:16-17, Ephesians 5:11, II Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15, I John 1:3-7, and II John 9-11**).
- An honest look at Romans 14 shows the stronger and weaker getting through differences of conscience over matters of liberty. One cannot be lost for or not for eating meats. However, once one teaches error on the matter, another story (**I Timothy 4:1-4**)!
- There is one faith (**Ephesians 4:5**) and we must be united, not differing, on that one faith (see points above).

5. The Side of Truth:

- What does verse 5 really say? If she is uncovered it is like having no hair at all!
- **I Corinthians 11:14-15** summarize verses 3-13 by saying: "(14) Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? (15) But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering [4018; "peribolaion", literally means "veil"]."

6. The Side of Truth:

- Too worried about the details?
- **Exodus 24:3, Deuteronomy 27:26, 29:29, Psalms 119:5-6, Jeremiah 26:2-3, Matthew 4:4, Acts 5:17-20, I Timothy 5:21, and James 2:10**.
- Too technical on L.S.? Was Paul also (**I Corinthians 11:18-34**)?

7. The Error Side: "But someone asks: 'What about a woman who is put away (divorced) by a man simply because the man no longer wanted to be married? Fornication is not involved and the woman repeatedly tried to prevent the divorce, but to no avail. After a couple of years the man marries another woman. Is the 'put way' woman then free to marry?' She certainly is, if she puts away her husband for fornication. She would have to do this before God in purpose of heart since the divorce has already taken place, legally speaking. She could not go through the process of having a legal document charging her husband with 'adultery,' but God would know" (Weldon E. Warnock; *Searching the Scriptures*, November issue, 1985)

8. The Error Side: "Titus 1:5, plus other references to appointing Elders is always "in every City". I do not believe that Elders can lead more than one Church. Many of the early Christians were forced to meet in small groups (not multiple congregations). I've stood in the catacombs which held 10-20 people about 10-20 meters apart. Recommend that you visit them if you have not already done so" (Frank Shipp; Member and Class Teacher at Eastridge 'A Church of Christ' on Pendleton Road in El Paso, TX; Email to Brian A. Yeager; Thursday April 27, 2006).

9. The Error Side: "as we continually sin, we must continually confess our sin, and God is continually faithful to cleanse us continually" (<http://www.norwalkchurch.org/goodnews/2008/0344.html>).

7. The Side of Truth:

- **Romans 7:1-3 and I Corinthians 7:8-11.**

8. The Side of Truth:

- Not "always in every city" (**Acts 14:23**)!
- A congregation cannot be divided into many small groups (**I Corinthians 11:20 and I Corinthians 14:23**).
- We also know that oversight of an eldership extended only to the group that was among them (**I Peter 5:1-3**).
- Whole congregations met in homes (**I Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15, and Philemon v.2**). However, not all congregations met in a home (**Acts 2:46, Acts 5:42, Acts 20:7, and I Corinthians 11:22; 34**).
- You cannot cut the local church into many pieces, spread out over town, and say we're one body (**Ephesians 4:16**).

9. The Side of Truth:

- Is this what **I John 1:7-9** says?
- **Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 1:4, I Thessalonians 2:11-12, Galatians 2:17, II Corinthians 13:9; 11, Philippians 3:13-15, Colossians 1:25-28, Colossians 4:12, II Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 6:1-3, and I John 2:1-6; 3:1-10**).

<p>10. The Error Side: “As Stephen was facing imminent death, he called on the Lord by praying to Jesus. Some might argue that this was an extreme case or that Stephen was inspired. But if we do what inspired men did in serving God, how can we be wrong? Stephen prayed to Jesus in this account” (Gospel Minutes; <i>Prayer to Jesus</i>; June 2nd, 2000; David Thurman).</p> <p>11. The Error Side: “We do not contribute one whit to our salvation” Rubel Shelly; <i>Love Lines</i> (Woodmont Hills bulletin), 10/31/90).</p> <p>12. The Error Side: “The point is that one’s view of baptism contributes significantly to one’s view of fellowship. The more narrow one’s view of baptism, the more narrow the acceptable bound of fellowship... I see common cause at work when I join with others in the fight against abortion. No one has taken more initiative against this ungodly holocaust than the Roman Catholic’s. Their participation in the right-to-life movement and particularly the Life Chains which they sponsor has kept the nation’s attention focused on the issue whom most other religious groups were happy to let it just fade away... If the primary mission of the Church-as the church-is preaching the gospel to lost souls, I as an individual Christian have an additional personal obligation to support that which is good and to fight against that which is evil. (Salt and light come in lots of different shakers and lamps.) In so doing, I find myself working alongside other believers who share a sense of that same responsibility. Conscientious dedicated believers. In many cases, unbaptized believers” (F. Lagard Smith; <i>Who Is My Brother</i>; pages 64-65).</p>	<p>10. The Side of Truth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you look up and see Jesus, talk to Him. • We are to pray to God the Father (Matthew 6:9 and II Timothy 1:3), through Christ (Ephesians 5:20 and I Timothy 2:5). <p>11. The Side of Truth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts 2:40 and Philippians 2:12. <p>12. The Side of Truth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there “unbaptized believers” (Christians) in denominations as Smith believes? NO (Acts 2:38-41; 47)! • Jesus is the Savior of what (Ephesians 5:23)? • How does one get into Christ (Galatians 3:27)? • What did Jesus say (Matthew 18:3, John 3:3-5, and Mark 16:15-16)? • Are good deeds really enough (Matthew 7:21-23)?
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Conclusion: Which side are you on (**Proverbs 17:15, 18:5, 28:4**)?