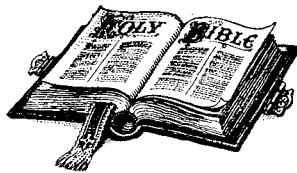


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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Number 1

A NEW CREATURE IS A CHANGED MAN

Paul said: "**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.**" (2 Cor. 5:17).

We learn from the preceding verse that if a person is **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**; hence a **changed man!** Many changes occur when a person becomes a **new creature**. Let us consider some of those changes and how they are brought about.

A **carnal** person is changed into a **spiritual** person. We learn from Romans 8:6 that "... to be **carnally minded** is death; but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace." This **change of mind** is brought about by **faith** in God and in Jesus Christ as being the Son of God. See Hebrews 11:6 and John 20:30-31. Without **faith** one can not be changed from a carnally minded person to one who is spiritually mind.

A person who **loves the world** is changed into one who **loves God**. See 1 John 2:15-17 and Matthew 22:37. This change of **affection** is brought about by **God's love**. Consider 1 John 4:8, 10, & 19. We love him **because** he first loved us.

A person who **has been following man's ways** is changed into a person who **follows God's way**. Read and consider Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12 and Isaiah 55:8-9. A person recognizes that it is not in man that walks to direct his own steps, so he depends upon God's Word for directions. This change of **will** is brought about by **repentance**. God commands all men every where to repent.

He does not want any one to perish, but he wants them to come to repentance. See Acts 17:30 and 2 Peter 3:9.

A person who has been a **friend of the world of sin** is changed into a **friend of Christ**. One can not be a friend of God and a friend of the world at the same time. See James 4:4 and Acts 8:37. This change of **allegiance** is brought about by a **confession** with the mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Consider Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10 and Acts 8:37.

A person who is a **child of the Devil** is changed into a **child of God**. It is quite obvious that a person can not be both at the same time. See Matthew 13:38; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8 and Gal. 3:26-27. To become a child of one's relationship must be changed. This change of relationship takes place in **water baptism**. Read and carefully consider Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27 & 1 Cor. 12:13.

A person who is a **citizen of the power of darkness** (i.e., the kingdom of Satan) is changed into a **citizen of the kingdom of God's dear Son** (i.e., the church). See John 12:46; Acts 26:15-18; 1 Peter 2:9 & Acts 2:47. This change of **citizenship** is brought about by a **translation**. When one is delivered from the power of darkness he is **translated** into the kingdom of Christ. Read Col. 1:13-14.

A person who is a **sinner** is changed into a **saved person -- a Christian!** Read and consider carefully 1 Tim. 1:15; Romans 5:8;

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Editorial - - -

RENDER DUE BENEVOLENCE

Sometimes husbands leave their wives and wives leave their husbands when neither accuse the other of being guilty of fornication. Although both husband and wife claim to be Christians, often they are unable or unwilling to resolve the problem or problems that may exist between them. Some brethren will advise a husband or wife to leave their companion or will assure the one who has left their companion that he or she is justified in their actions. It is sometimes argued that "she doesn't have to live with her husband. She hasn't done anything wrong. As long as she doesn't remarry she is alright." Is this the attitude that a Christian should have? Is this the proper example for others to follow? Is this the teaching of the word of God? Is this what you would want me to teach the **companion** of **your** son or daughter? Is this what you would want me to teach **your companion**? Is this what you would want me to encourage **your son's** or **daughter's companion** or **your companion** to do? Why not, if this is right?

Let us examine the idea that "a wife (or husband) who is a Christian doesn't have to live with her husband (or wife) who is a Christian in order to please God. As long as she (or he) doesn't remarry, she (or he) is alright." Is this idea taught in God's word? Let us see.

In 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 the inspired apostle Paul said: "**Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.** The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. **Defraud ye not one another**, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer, and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency." Let us consider the following observations:

1. The wife (and husband) is told to "**render**" unto the husband (or wife) "**due benevolence.**" To "**render due benevolence**" means to **render that which is owed in the marital relationship.** It means to **fulfil one's obligations or duty to the other.** One can not fulfil their marital obligations to the other if they do not live together.
2. In the marital relationship, neither wife nor husband has authority over their own body, but the other one does have that authority. It is obvious from this passage that **both** have certain obligations to fulfil the sexual desires of the other. This can not be done unless their is cohabitation.
3. Neither husband nor wife has the right to "**defraud**" (i.e., **deprive**) the **other of sexual fulfilment.** The **exception to this is given. One may deprive the other only by mutual consent** (i.e., **agreement**) **for a limited time for a specific purpose, i.e., that each may devote themselves to prayer.** Even then they must come together again lest one of them (or both) be tempted by Satan to commit fornication because of their lack of self-control.
4. One of the reasons that Paul gives for marriage is to fulfil sexual desires. He says: "**... to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.**" (1 Corinthians 7:2).

SOME FURTHER OBSERVATIONS

1. In 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 Paul says: "**... Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.**" **Some have suggested that this passage justifies a wife leaving her husband** because it says: "**... let her remain unmarried ...**" However, this is a

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perversion because **this passage says "let not the wife depart from her husband."** The NASV says: ". . .the wife should not leave her husband." If she does, she has violated God's law! Furthermore, she has violated 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 that teaches that she should render due benevolence to her husband. She can not do this unless she cohabits with him. QUESTION: Does the expression ". . .let him depart" in verse 15 justify the unbeliever in departing from the believer? If it doesn't, please explain how the expression ". . .let her remain unmarried. . ." in verse 11 justifies a wife in leaving her husband. The truth is this: neither of them is justified.

The wife who departs from her husband also violates other passages of Scriptures by failing to fulfil her responsibilities as a wife.

2. In Ephesians 5:22-25 Paul teaches wives to **submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord** because "the husband is the head of the wife." A wife who departs from her husband because "he is grouchy" is violating God's law as stated in this passage!

3. In Ephesians 5:33 Paul teaches that "the wife see that she reverence (NASV says: respect) her husband." A wife who departs from her husband because "he had the wrong attitude" is violating God's law as given in this passage!

4. Paul teaches that "the husband is the head of the wife" in Ephesians 5:23. When a wife departs from her husband because she is not willing for him to be the head, she is guilty of violating God's law as revealed in this passage!

5. When a wife who is a "Christian" departs from her husband who is a "Christian" because "he didn't provide for me," when he did provide her a good home, sufficient food, medical care and provided a joint checking account at the bank, she is not only guilty of violating God's law regarding her responsibilities to her husband, but she is also guilty of trying to deceive others! Such a person (and all who encourage her in such) are in a very dangerous position!

6. When a wife, who is a "Christian" departs from her husband who is a "Christian," and deliberately leaves the impression that "he mistreated me" when there is no evidence that such was the case, she is not only guilty of violating God's law

regarding her obligations to her husband, but she is also guilty of hypocrisy! Such a person is in a lost condition!

All who uphold or encourage in any way a person who is guilty of violating God's law in these areas (as well as in any other area) are certainly condoning sin by their actions.

Husbands and wives should study God's word to learn their responsibilities toward each other and should earnestly strive to fulfil them. Yes, each should "render due benevolence" to the other. Brethren should urge and exhort all husbands and wives to "render due benevolence" to one another.

(CRS)

THE TRUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The true church of our Lord Jesus Christ is not a denomination. It is not any part of any denomination. Neither is it a combination of denominations. No human denomination has any right whatsoever to claim to be the Lord's church. It is quite interesting to me that there is no specific mention made of any modern denomination in the Scriptures. This should ring loud and clear in the ears and hearts of every member of every human church. Human denominations are not ordained by divine wisdom. They are the products of human wisdom and preferences. Jesus said: "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (Matthew 15:13). Paul warned saying: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col. 2:8).

The true church of God is the church you read about in your New Testament. It is according to the eternal purpose which God purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (See Eph. 3:10-11). During His personal ministry on earth, Jesus promised saying: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18). Jesus promised that his kingdom (the church) would come with power during the life time of some of those who were living in the first century. (Cf. Mark 9:1).

The true church was established by Jesus Christ through the medium of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as recorded in Acts 2. We learn from Eph. 5:25 that Jesus died for the church and Paul

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THE TRUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

tells us in Acts 20:28 that it was purchased with his blood. If the church is non-essential, as some contend, then the death of Jesus was non-essential and His blood is worthless.

Not only is Jesus the builder of His church, but He is the one and only Head of it. He has "all power" both in heaven and on earth. He is truly "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

The church is a body of **baptized penitent believers**, who have been called out of the world, in **whom the Holy Spirit dwells**, and over which Jesus Christ reigns and rules as Supreme Head.

The true church of Christ accepts both old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God. It uses the Old Testament for example, for learning and for admonition but **not as law for us today**. It accepts the New Testament as the complete standard in religious matters today. It **condemns all human creeds as abominable** to God.

In the true church of Christ (i.e., to be in Christ) there is salvation for the lost, refuge for the wayward, and eternal hope for those who die in its fellowship. Its members are neither Jewish, Catholic nor Protestant, but simply Christians.

ARE YOU REALLY A MEMBER OF THE TRUE CHURCH OF CHRIST? IF NOT, YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF ETERNAL SALVATION! Tarry no longer!

(CRS)

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

Time continues to pass. Opportunities for **Albert Hill** and the West Hobbs Street "elders" to make good their promise to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE continue to avail themselves and then they pass on without advantage being taken of them. **No**, as of this date, they still have **not** made any affirmative response to their **promise**.

How long will they continue to have opportunity to **keep their word** and fulfil their promise, only God knows.

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Acts 11:26; Mark 16: 15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21 and 1 Pet. 4:16. The release and salvation from sin and this change of **name** is brought about **by the new birth — being born of water and of the Spirit**. Read and study carefully John 3:1-5.

A person who **has been serving sin** is changed into one who **serves righteousness**. This change of **vocation** is brought about by **obedience**. See Rom. 6:16-18.

A person who **was on his way to hell** is changed into a person who **is on his way to heaven**. This change of **direction** is the result of **his love for God and his obedient faith to God's will**.

ARE YOU A CHANGED PERSON? IF NOT YOU ARE NOT A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST!

(CRS)

S e n t e n c e S e r m o n s

Worldliness is simply pursuing the activities of this present life without proper thought of God.

Those who complain about the way the ball bounces are often the ones who dropped it.

You weaken the truth when you stretch it—and mislead others—and weaken yourself.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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