

Dear Christian Friend,

This is the end of a series of 4 MONARCHS on a lot of religious subjects to which I partially agree and partially DO NOT.

Most letters indicated that most people really did need to see the differences. Naturally it was painful to loose some former friends, but it is pleasant to make new ones.

I really did not write this series of MONARCHS in order to polarize people. My purpose was to set the record straight.



### LOCAL CHURCH

Q. Do you believe in the LOCAL CHURCH.

A. YES! My thrust is to bring about a better balance between clergy and laity. I believe in the CHIEF SHEPHERD who said, "I am the door. By me you shall go out and come in." I am especially opposed to the IDEA the UNDERSHEPHERDS teach, "This (denomination or church) is the door. By it you may come in - but don't you dare go out." I don't believe in keeping people from visiting and/or reading new Christian literature from a new source. In my opinion, Christians who only read literature from only one source are heading toward a CULT.

In fact, when I visit in your home I am not shocked or offended if I see a copy of PLAIN TRUTH, PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, CHRISTIANITY TODAY, CHRISTIAN LIFE, CHARISMA, UPPER ROOM, KEYS TO THE SCRIPTURE or any other magazine on your coffee table. I teach my students to eat the grapes and spit out the seeds. No one has got all the truth yet. And a lot of authors mix some pretty seedy stuff in their articles. I would rather see seedy grapes in your fruit bowl than no grapes at all. And after you experience the difference between kinds of grapes, you will know which ones are seedy.

Q. Thanks for including the magazine I read in your list. But NO thanks for the idea that it might be seedy. What's wrong with receiving direction from a central source like a denominational headquarters through their literature?



A. When I said that I believe in the LOCAL CHURCH please do not think that I support the idea that the church in one central city (like Jerusalem or Rome) should have the right to tell the churches in subordinate cities what to do (like a vatican). I believe that the Bible teaches that each LOCAL CHURCH is autonomous.

I believe that a lot of unrest in church relationships is because local pastors and churches are beginning to see that our GOD holds each church individually accountable to be led by the HOLY SPIRIT but the people in their denominational headquarters haven't been able to see that yet. They still believe that THEY are directed by the HOLY SPIRIT and that their job is to then direct the others.

Q. A few LOCAL CHURCHES are now teaching their people that SUBMISSION and SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY are their God's answers to our present woes. They are pushing people hard to submit to a hierarchy of SPIRITUAL LEADERS who are set up to hear from their God and then tell the people what to do. What does the Bible say about SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY?

A. The Bible condemns the idea of SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY, but promotes TEMPORAL AUTHORITY. Our GOD wants all of His people to listen to Him - not some other Christian. The idea of SPIRITUAL Authority came to us as a result of the WEAKNESS of Israel when they told Moses to go listen to GOD for them and then for Moses to tell them what GOD said. Israel said, "Let NOT GOD speak with us." and they set up a SUBMISSION teaching (Ex. 20:18-19). One chapter before, our GOD had just told ISRAEL to listen to Him. He promised to talk individually to every person in Israel, man to man, mouth to mouth and face to face (Ex. 19:5). But the people of Israel got scared to death (Ex. 20:19). The hierarchy of the 70 elders set up in Israel was the idea of Jethro, a Midianite - not even an Israelite. It was NOT set up by our GOD - but our GOD has always condescended to work on us through the systems that we set up in our ignorant weakness. Praise our GOD for His goodness!

Q. What's wrong with SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY?

A. The problem lies in the present inability of some Christians to see the dif-

ference between TEMPORAL and SPIRITUAL authority. Our GOD very plainly set up TEMPORAL leaders to conduct the business of the church - pastors, elders, deacons, etc. But, those leaders have changed their authority over TEMPORAL matters (what day to go to church, what time, what to eat, what not to drink, etc. Rom. 14) into their own ideas of SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY. Now they want to hear from GOD FIRST and then tell the church what He said. That's sick, and the sicker part is that some Christians still want it.

EVERY CULT PROMOTES THE IDEA OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY. NO CULT COULD BECOME ESTABLISHED WITHOUT THE IDEA THAT GOD SPEAKS TO A SELECTED LEADER WHO THEN TELLS THE PEOPLE WHAT TO DO.



The SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY teaching is a big ego trip for its self appointed SPIRITUAL LEADERS.

And it makes weak Christians weaker as they turn to others, rather than GOD.

The SUBMISSION - SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY idea - that teaches us to be led by another Christian - is a counterfeit for the leading of the HOLY GHOST.

Q. How does the SUBMISSION teaching spread?

A. The error of SUBMISSION very slowly and subtly creeps into the minds of TEMPORAL LEADERS (pastor-clergy) and FOLLOWERS (sheep laity).

At times our GOD DOES sovereignly use our church leaders to tell us what to do. At times the heavy responsibility for success does drive church leaders into states of spiritual sensitivity in order to find GOD'S will for the people.

THE SUBTLE EVIL CREEPS IN WHEN THE CONGREGATION ASSIGNS THAT DUTY TO THE LEADERSHIP AND/OR WHEN THE LEADERSHIP USURPS THAT DUTY FROM THE CONGREGATION.

Our GOD wants every individual person to listen to HIM - not some other person.

Q. If the HOLY GHOST is to be our leader-why do people choose to be led by men?

A. Insensitivity! It is easier to hear men than to develop spiritual sensitivity.

I teach that SUBMISSION to our GOD through the voice of the HOLY SPIRIT is what makes weak Christians STRONG. Conversely, when a strong Christian purposely seeks our GOD through the voice of another Christian, he becomes weak.

There is only one mediator between man and our GOD - and that is JESUS CHRIST. JESUS told us that it was to our advantage for Him (JESUS) to go away so that the FATHER would send the HOLY GHOST (SPIRIT). The purpose of the HOLY GHOST is to TEACH US all things that JESUS said and to bring them to our remembrance.

JESUS was led by the HOLY SPIRIT (Matt. 4:1, Luke 4:1) and we should be, too! For as many as are led by the SPIRIT of GOD, they are the sons of GOD (Rom. 8:14).

Q. Isn't it all right to FIRST learn to be led by men - other CHRISTIANS - and then eventually to learn to be led by the HOLY GHOST? What's wrong with that?

A. I have never seen a pastor or a board that is willing to let the people go after the people are eating out of the hand of the leadership. The people become trained to follow the leader. The leaders begin to think that they are GOD'S gift to the people. That is the history of the church from its early beginnings. It didn't work. It doesn't work. It won't work.

Q. Why do you quote from Paul since some people say that you are critical of Paul, Moses and John the Baptist.

A. I am NOT critical of the men. Some people can not see the difference between

PAST truth and PRESENT truth so they incorrectly think that I am critical of the man who said it. Moses and John the Baptist do not teach PRESENT truth, though they were great men of God. They are O.T. prophets - not N.T. Identifying them doesn't make me critical of them. Paul is a special case because some of the things that he wrote are PAST truth and some still speak to us today. I am critical of the idea, foisted upon us by many mistaken preachers, that whatever is written in the Bible is for us to follow today. That's impossible. For instance, Moses commanded me to marry my sister-in-law if my brother died. I'm glad that is PAST truth. To refuse to marry my sister-in-law does not make me critical of Moses.

WHO AM I?

Who am I, that so very many people are starting to want to know what I believe? I came to JESUS to eat the bread, flesh, and word; and I have believed on Him, so I drank the water, wine, blood, and spirit. If what I have written and published over the last 17 years is starting to make a constructive impression on present Christian theology - I am humbled - and my answer is; "When ye shall have done all these things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

Love,

*David*

David

Pray for me

P.S. When we receive your continued support then the effect of this ministry does expand to bring present truth Bible teaching to the lives of other Christians.