

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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“But He Does Not Teach Error!”

By: Jerry Fite

Please listen in on the following conversation: *“I do not understand it. Why do you at the First Street church of Christ refuse to have brother Goodfellow come and hold a Gospel Meeting. I have heard him preach, and he makes sure the audience knows where he stands on the subject of marriage, divorce and remarriage. He preaches the same on the subject as your preacher there at First Street does. What is the problem you people have with this good man, brother Goodfellow? I could understand a problem if he taught false doctrine, but he does not teach error.”*

It seems that people are looking only at what a man preaches to determine if he is worthy of having come preach in a Gospel Meeting. The dominant criterion is, “Does he teach the truth?”. If so, he is worthy of fellowshiping. But we know this is not totally true. If we knew that the preacher was running around on his wife, skipping out on paying his bills, or was caught in countless lies, we would be quick to offer the sad proof of his **living** to those who say, “But he does not

teach error.”. We would be right for resisting this man because a man’s influence for truth is affected not only by **what** a man teaches, but also by **how** he lives.

Peter taught the truth that man’s heart was equally cleansed by faith for a Gentile as it was for a Jew (Acts 15:9). That no man should be called common or unclean was Peter’s new understanding in the context of the Jews being accustomed to the law of not eating with the Gentiles (Acts 10:28). Peter taught the truth, but he did not “walk according to the truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2: 14).

One moment Peter is eating with the Gentiles which was in line with his teaching, but when the Jews came to Antioch, we find him separating himself from the Gentiles. He not only stood condemned by his hypocrisy, but was leading others away with his dissimulation.

The apostolic antidote to Peter’s actions was for Paul to “resist him face to face” (Galatians 2:11). He forced Peter to see his inconsistent action before others, whom he had adversely influenced

(Galatians 2:15). Peter’s practice was leading men astray, not his teaching.

Some today manifest they are doctrinally sound in their teaching, but in their actions will fellowship error by continuing to give “God speed” to the teacher who does not bring the doctrine of Christ (2 John 11). These proclaimers of soundness appear before many as having a loving spirit in their lack of rebuke for the false teacher. These bastions of soundness will be praised publicly from the pulpit for the truth they preach. But like Peter, their actions are strengthening error, not the truth of the Gospel.

Our conversation continues with a proper question: *Would you have a problem with inviting the apostle Peter who teaches the truth to hold you a Gospel Meeting at First Street?* The answer: *“No, if you allow us to invite the apostle Paul to rebuke Peter’s error of living.”* The problem today is not preachers being praised for the truth they teach, but the lack of rebuke for them fellowshiping those who teach doctrinal error. The leaven of error continues!