

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Is Jesus Intolerant, Confrontational, And Exclusionary?

It is sad to say that many people look upon these three characteristics as being totally unacceptable, and yet it is very clear from the Scriptures that Jesus Christ demonstrated all three of them over and over again in His teachings and actions. He also very plainly taught us that we should make them very much a part of our character and practice. We had better be sufficiently informed about the goodness and severity of God. *“Behold then the goodness and severity of God: toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee, God’s goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”* (Romans 1:22).

The denominational world has pictured Jesus as being so filled with love that He is willing to accept almost anything in our lives and is totally harmless when it comes to condemning anything we say or do. Therefore there is very little awe or fear about “wrath” or “condemnation” being any part of His nature! Such attitudes are built upon blatant falsehoods and deceitful assertions. We had better soberly understand what the scriptures teach about the nature and character of our Lord. *“And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* (Matthew 10:28). *“But I will warn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, who after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”* (Luke 12:5). We are surrounded by a generation described in the scriptures, *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* (Romans 3:18). But you

and I had better be sure to understand that our salvation will only be attained with fear and trembling. *“So then, my beloved, even as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;”* (Philippians 2:12).

Jesus was clearly intolerant of any departure from His Word! *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof.”* (Matthew 7:21-27). Those who fail to obey the gospel will taste of His wrath in the judgment of the last day, *“and to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might,”* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). The Lord has done everything possible to keep us from being lost, and the decision as to where we want to spend eternity is in our own hands. *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9). *“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

Jesus was confrontational in that he boldly told people the Truth, and He readily exposed sin, error, and lawless conduct. He was neither ashamed or afraid to confront those who rejected the gospel. *“And he said unto them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites,*

as it is written, *This people honoreth me with their lips, But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men. Ye leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men. And he said unto them, Full well do ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your tradition.*” (Mark 7:6-9). *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”* (Luke 6:46).

Jesus was exclusionary as both He and His apostles were adamant that those who refused to do His Will would be excluded from His blessings, and openly warned that they would partake of His wrath. *“And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”* (Matthew 28:18-20). *“and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them; for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of. But all things when they are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for everything that is made manifest is light.”* (Ephesians 5:11-13). *“Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth. But shun profane babblings: for they will proceed further in ungodliness, and their word will eat as doth a gangrene: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; men who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.”* (2 Timothy 2:15-18).

There is no greater love than that which is possessed by Jesus Christ, and His love is poured out in abundance toward those who would believe, obey, and live faithful to His Word. *“Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* (1 John 4:9-10). *“For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life; and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” (Romans 5:6-11). Yes, indeed, Jesus has always been, and is today, intolerant, confrontational and exclusionary when it comes to doing His Will. *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day.”* (John 12:48). *“Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works.”* (2 John 9-11).

✍️ Dennis L. Reed



Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed how easy it is to find an excuse for not doing something you don't like to do and how we make great effort to be able to do what we want to do? Could this explain why some put forth great effort to attend every service and some always have an excuse for being absent frequently. (JH)

Belleville church of Christ	
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258	
www.bellevillechurch.net	
Schedule of Services	Elders
Sun. Bible Study... 9:30 a.m.	Charles Carpenter... (317) 839-3873
Sun. Morning Worship... 10:30 a.m.	James Hahn... (317) 745-1507
Sun. Evening Worship... 5:00 p.m.	
Wed. Bible Study... 7:00 p.m.	Deacons
Evangelist	Leon Nevins... (317) 272-2966
James Hahn... (317) 745-1507	Don Perry... (765) 676-5825
	Alvin Stanley... (317) 831-3514