

Accusations Against the Church of Christ

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For
so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

(Luke 6:26)

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“THEY POLICE OTHER PEOPLE’S DOCTRINES”

We must worship God “**in spirit and in truth**” (John 4:24), which means we must do it the exact way God has specified.

Doctrine is defined by the Bible:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Doctrine is not defined by man:

“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. **And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**’” (Matt. 15:7-9).

“THEY POLICE OTHER PEOPLE’S DOCTRINES”

There is only one true doctrine:

- “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim. 4:16).

- “Those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:41-42).

“THEY POLICE OTHER PEOPLE’S DOCTRINES”

The Bible speaks quite harshly about those who are not in harmony with the one true doctrine of Christ:

- “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed**” (Gal. 1:8-9).
- “**Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God**. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9).

“THEY POLICE OTHER PEOPLE’S DOCTRINES”

It is critical that we constantly examine ourselves and what others say regarding spiritual matters:

- “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves” (2 Cor. 13:5a).
- “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

“THEY WON’T HELP THE NEEDY”

The main argument used to justify church support and involvement in human institutions is that there is no distinction between the church and the individual. The thinking is that whatever individuals can do, the church can do; whatever Christians can scripturally contribute to, the money from the treasury of the church can be used to support.

THIS LINE OF THINKING IS FALSE.

“THEY WON’T HELP THE NEEDY”

- The church should engage in benevolence.
 - The early church helped **needy saints** (Acts 2:41-45, 4:32-37, 6:1-7, 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:4, 9:1,12; 1 Tim. 5:16).
- There are clear distinctions made between individual and church actions (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:1-16).

“THEY WON’T HELP THE NEEDY”

The church is limited in benevolence, but the individual Christian is not. We must:

- **“Do good”** to all men (Gal. 6:10).
- **“Visit orphans and widows in their trouble”** (James 1:27).
- **“Remember the poor”** (Gal. 2:10).
- Aid brethren when they are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison, or else Jesus will tell us to depart **“into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”** (Matt. 25:40-43).

“THEY ARE ANTI-”

Since we . . .

- Do not support instrumental music for worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13; 1 Cor. 14:15), we are considered anti-music.
- Believe common food is not permitted in worship (1 Cor. 11:17-34), we are considered anti-food or anti-fellowship.

“THEY ARE ANTI-”

Since we . . .

- Do not believe the church’s purpose is to provide recreation but to instruct its members and spread the gospel (1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Thess. 1:8-9; Mark 16:15-16), we are considered anti-fun or anti-recreation.
- Reject all types of church organization and cooperation not specifically found in the Scriptures (1 Pet. 5:1-2; Acts 11:22, 27-30; Acts 20:28; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:3, 10-11), we are anti-cooperation.

“THEY ARE ANTI-”

What lies at the heart of this discussion is the fight between Christian liberalism and conservatism.

- The liberal approach states that when something is not expressly forbidden in God’s word, it is allowed.
- A conservative approach, on the other hand, states that when something is not expressly allowed, albeit directly or implied, it is forbidden.

“THEY ARE ANTI-”

When it comes to the study and application of God’s word, it is imperative that we are **CONSERVATIVE** in our approach:

- “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Rev. 22:18-19).
- “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” (Deut. 4:2).

“THEY ARE ANTI-”

Peter explains, “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of **God**” (1 Pet. 4:11). What we speak must be in complete harmony with God’s word. We must speak when the Bible speaks and remain silent when it is silent. God has always taken the handling of His word seriously, and he expects us to do the same today.

We are “**imitators of God**” (Eph. 5:1). If God is **pro-anything** or if He is **anti-anything**, so must we be.

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

What do we really believe?

All Have Sinned

- “For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin” (Ecc. 7:20).
- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).
- “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

What do we really believe?

All Can Be Saved

- “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).
- “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11).

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

What do we really believe?

The Commands of Christ Will Be the Standard of Judgment

- “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).
- “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9).

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

The New Testament teaches who will be saved:

- **Those who hear the truth** – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).
- **Those who believe it** – “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6).
- **Those who love God** – “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12).

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

The New Testament teaches who will be saved:

- **Those who repent** – “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).
- **Those who verbally confess faith in Jesus** – “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

The New Testament teaches who will be saved:

- **Those who are baptized** – “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38).
- **Those who remain faithful** – “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10c).

“ . . . THE ONLY PEOPLE GOING TO HEAVEN ”

The only ones who are going to Heaven are those who meet Christ's terms of membership for His church and live a faithful life.

**Do you want to go to Heaven?
Are we doing what Christ requires?**