

Administrating Controversy

INTRODUCTION

We should all be familiar with the Faulty Towers episode, “Don't Mention The War”¹. I was brought up with a similar, although not funny, maxim: 'Don't discuss religion or politics in mixed company'. As a consequence I never learnt how to handle life's controversial situations.

Since being propelled into my new apostolic level this month I have been 'thrown in the deep end' and had the following controversies to immediately deal with:

- A incident with a participant during a teaching session
- My latest audio teaching which has offend someone I know
- My next teaching topic “Religion or the Kingdom” which will offend those in the class
- Organising today's discussion on whether we should see the movie “The Shack”

These are tests to see if I will handle the new level rightly. At this time, the enemy will also be looking to foul me up so I fail and end up with disasters. He may even tempt me to operate out of my soul with soul power instead of Spirit power. He doesn't want me to operate where I am now because I'm a threat to his manipulation of people.

With regard to controversy, let me tell you at the outset that any form of debate, research, point-making, contention and polarizing talk are all operating out of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. This is the same tree that religion and legalism feed off, and I can tell you I can 'smell' them because I used to be there. Paul's days of reasoning with the Jews² was because he was confronting religion, whereas, when he taught the believers, they sat for hours and drank in what he had to say.

Sons live off the Tree of Life where there is freedom and the maxim of being led by the Spirit.

Grace, mercy, *agapē* and peace don't flow from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. Therefore, it's easy to tell where anyone is coming from. Contention or controversy really 'shakes up the pot' and brings to the surface who a person is at the heart level. Facades fall away during contention.

If you have the hallmarks of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil then it simply means you haven't been fully reprogrammed yet. If that's the case, your responsibility is to speak less and listen more in Community, allowing the Spirit to change you from the inside out. You will not progress in the things of the Kingdom until the transformation has made major changes in the way you think, hear and respond to Holy Spirit.

Some have left our group because I didn't focus enough on the Bible. If you think similarly, then you need to grow up. You are free to leave, but you will drift back into religion and legalism as the religious spirit will have been given permission to influence your life.

You will not be able to move forward in the things of the Kingdom and operate as a son out of the Realm of Heaven until you are fully free of religion and totally dissatisfied with it so that it is an anathema to you. This is my experience and that of Ian Clayton (for those who follow his teaching).

Please be aware that your words give you away. While you are talking, I'm analysing and discerning their source. This is not very hard to do.

I will be covering a number of controversial topics soon which will require you all to handle what I say properly. However, contention should not cause a rift in our Community unless it is concerning fundamental Kingdom truths that affect righteousness – i.e. God's ways for us. These fissures are essential

1 – www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfl6Lu3xQW0

2 – Acts 17:2, 17; 18:4, 19; 24:25

to expose the truth.³ Outside of this, knowledge is irrelevant, as what we believe should not separate us.

ACTIVITY

Today we are intentionally entering into a controversial discussion. I am deliberately using this discussion for two purposes:

1. To demonstrate how to handle controversy without fearing it, &
2. To expose the lack of transformation that are in our lives.

So, here's the exercise: **Discuss – 'Should we see the movie "The Shack" as a group'**⁴

TEACHING

Mark Knopfler's song "Ticket to Heaven" is controversial⁵. So, what attitude should we have towards it? Well, each person has freedom to like it or dislike it. In the same way, Kingdom citizens have the freedom to accept it as heresy, cynicism, biblically sound, or a nice song. We are free to have our own opinions.

There's no point arguing over what is right or wrong about this song as it's a personal opinion. That is, unless the Spirit has given you Heaven's verdict. Sure, you're free to enter into a discussion about it, but that's futile and a waste of your time. However, because it is controversial, there's no place in the Kingdom for you to get angry or heated about another person's opinion – that's your soul entering into the situation.

We are required to work out of our spirit while keeping our soul, body and 'flesh' in check. Allowing our emotions to enter, or being dogmatic about the song from a religious or biblical perspective is really fruitless.

Sons are called to administrate every situation, including controversial ones. We aren't to run away from such circumstances, or 'bury our head', or even rant & rave. Jesus set the example: He was always in control. Any rise in tension in his speech was in confrontation with the religious spirit. This included the clearing of the temple where the religious spirit had deviated the religious priests into commercialism and the disenfranchisement of those who the court was constructed for.

When controversy causes fear to rise up, or for intimidation to be present, that's the time for the 'lion' inside us to replace the 'lamb' so that we 'steel' ourselves to remain resolute against what is being sent against us. Even if we are wrong in our opinion, wherever fear and intimidation are present, these need to be dealt with, while still allowing the Spirit to alter what we formerly believed.

There is no place for stubbornness in controversy. However, there is the place for quiet, firm resistance of any technique of others or the enemy to dominate us.

There are many things that are controversial. Even science has opposing factions for almost every scientific concept there is, especially evolution⁶. Here are some controversial theological issues:

- Old Covenant/New Covenant
- Israel/The Church
- End Times
- Sacred/Secular
- Kingdom/Dominion/Church
- Sabbath/Rest

There's so much controversy out there, not everyone can be right. Therefore, we will always come across

3 – 1 Corinthians 11:18-19

4 – Resources to read are listed at the end of this document

5 – Check out the various comments here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsk9MS6kY7w

6 – See my text book "Unmasking Evolution" Free download here: unmaskingevolution.com/pdf_dl/book/resource.PDF

controversy when we talk with others. We must administrate every one of those occasions, because they will all be different, and you may be wrong at any time.

Finally, there three important responses to controversy that we must avoid:

1. Becoming offended⁷
2. Attacking the person⁸
3. Don't focus on the other persons perceived error – make sure all your theologies are in line with Heaven

An important lesson we learnt back in the 1980s was: “**You can choose your attitude**”. This means that no negative response to controversy is without a person's full control of it. Everyone makes a personal choice on their attitude and response to controversy and toward the people that bring them – no one is cleared of this step.

IMPORTANT: It is critical that all sons quickly learn to handle contention. When they get to the point of total surrender to our sovereign King and ask him to change them from the inside out so they become who he wants them to be, that's when contention explodes. What he will do is to totally reprogram the person's belief system. All their cherished theologies will be challenged and for them everything will become controversial because they have to let everything go.

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RESOURCES

- Interview with the Shack author Paul Young – m.youtube.com/watch?v=a_YEoK72YYk ✓✓✓
- The Shack – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Shack
- Is THE SHACK Christian? – www.movieguide.org/news-articles/reel-change.html
- THE SHACK Probably Won't Lead You Astray – www.movieguide.org/news-articles/the-shack-probably-wont-lead-you-astray-but-it-could-lead-some-people.html
- A Look at “The Shack” – www.albertmohler.com/2008/04/11/a-look-at-the-shack-3

7 – Example: “Former Islamist Maajid Nawaz and his challenge to extremism” PODCAST [check the Moslem offence from 43:00-48:26] (www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/conversations-maajid-nawaz-rpt/8487874)

8 – Example: “Joel Osteen denies Jesus Christ & Oprah Winfrey exposed” VIDEO (www.youtube.com/watch?v=weEW152wevI)