

It's Scary Out Here

I have been undergoing some eye-opening changes this past few weeks. It all originated from the fact that coming out of the institutional church is scary, once the initial enthusiasm dissipates. Three areas have come to light which have caused me to readjust myself and take a firm stand on where I am going. These are:

1. The 'doughy' spiritual atmosphere in Canberra that kills initiative
2. Being known as a heretic because some of my doctrines are scriptural interpretations that differ from other people's doctrines
3. The pressure to move off-track with my Kingdom revelations

(1) It has been a concern for me for some time that it is my 'drive' and enthusiasm that keeps our Kingdom Community continuing. The same is true of a couple of other meetings that I organise. If I went overseas for a period of time, there is a good chance that all of them would fold up very quickly because of the lack of ongoing initiative in those who attend. This should not be the case.

I realise this is a factor of commitment and of a reticence of people to move forward with the revelation and assignments that we have been given. I also observe that this is not confined to the areas I am associated with, but is widespread in our city of Canberra. This was highlighted recently by the total absence in the lead-up to our 2016 Federal Elections of a drive by members of the Rise Up Australia Party (RUAP) to field candidates again and for the local party to begin meeting to plan for the election. This is not the case for other political parties.

(2) As I have been researching the lessons for my School For Prophets course, Part 2, which is a study of End Times, I have become acutely aware of the differences in theology of believers.

EXAMPLE: The pretrib assumption that interprets the 144,000 Jews in Revelation 7 as 'evangelists' instead of the remnant of Jews who will be the first fruits of all Israel saved at the end of the seven-year period.¹

Not only do they differ, but each will often call the different teaching a heresy and those who subscribe to it as a cult. These accusations arises from within 'bible-believing' churches and stem from a difference in interpreting verses in scripture. For example:

“What is indisputably, absolutely, and uncompromisingly essential to the Christian religion is its doctrine of salvation...If Dispensationalism has actually departed from the only way of salvation which the Christian religion teaches, then we must say it has departed from Christianity. No matter how many other important truths it proclaims, it cannot be called Christian if it empties Christianity of its essential message. We define a cult as a religion which claims to be Christian while emptying Christianity of that which is essential to it. If Dispensationalism does this, then Dispensationalism is a cult and not a branch of the Christian church. It is as serious as that. It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation.”²

This type of accusation hit home when I recently came across a couple of blog items written by believers who came out of non-mainstream church groups. Both had 'negative' experiences and ended up going back into mainstream system churches. One came out of Mike Bickle's IHOPKC and the other came out of Rick Joyner's Morning Star Ministries. Both labelled the organisations they came out of as dangerous, cultic and teaching heresy. I have seen many such attacks on church groups on the Internet, but these were a shock to me as the leaders were ones whose teaching I had subscribed to in the past. I did not expect these exposés.

1 – SEE: Alan Kurschner (4-6-2016) “VIDEO: The 144,000 Jews in the Book of Revelation Are NOT Jewish Evangelists”
(www.alankurschner.com/2016/06/04/video-the-144000-jews-in-the-book-of-revelation-are-not-evangelists/)

2 – John H. Gerstner (1991) “Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Critique of Dispensationalism” Wolgemuth & Hyatt: Brentwood TN p:150

I have been accused behind my back of teaching heresy and our Kingdom Community is viewed by some as a cult.

Interestingly, Mike Bickle offers what he considers to be 7 characteristics of a cult, all of which do not apply to myself or our Community, which were both called out of the system:³

- #1 – They oppose critical thinking instead of allowing people to think for themselves.
- #2 – They dishonour the family unit instead of insisting on the biblical priority of the family unit.
- #3 – They isolate members and reject them for leaving instead of helping them do God's will.
- #4 – They promote inappropriate loyalty and connection to the cult leadership instead of to Jesus.
- #5 – They cross biblical boundaries of behaviour instead of walking in purity and integrity.
- #6 – They separate from the Church instead of promoting a culture of honour toward the Church.
- #7 – Emphasizing special revelations that contradict Scripture instead of honouring the Scripture.

(3) All this pressure caused me to begin to re-evaluate my theologies. Am I off-track? What doctrines do I have from my past life in the institutional churches which are fallacious?

I had a scary time for a while as I reconsidered my responsibilities as a Kingdom teacher and as an overseer of a Kingdom group. I am accountable to the Lord for my teaching and I don't want to lead others astray with false doctrine. This was scary because some have accused me of having wrong doctrine, right back to the time of running a house church in Batlow, NSW.

My Decisions

Following my reflection on these 'scary' issues, I have made the following decisions:

1. If I allow fear to affect me, I am caving in to the enemy's tactic to sideline me. I will never do that.
2. Jesus told me he would be my oversight when he called me out of the church system and he's been my teacher ever since. I will not doubt him.
3. The Kingdom only functions by faith. Anything that is not founded in faith is sin.⁴ I will continue to operate out of faith with what the Spirit is showing me is TRUE.
4. The Kingdom is advancing and our King has brought us out of the system as forerunners with a specific end-time task in mind. I will not give up and go back into the church system as some already have.
5. I will stick to the interpretations of scripture that I current have and rely on the Spirit to correct me. He has done a lot of alterations in me in the recent past and I will trust him to keep doing it.
6. My hand is in Father's hand. I will not let go, even though the going is precarious. I will totally trust him in all things.
7. I will not give up or fail. I've done both in the past and will not submit to them again.
8. I will complete all the Kingdom assignments I am given at a standard of excellence, irrespective of what others think.
9. I will listen to the Spirit and allow him to give me revelation, including the secrets of the Kingdom.
10. I will teach the sound doctrine that I have received and amend it as I am shown by the Spirit.
11. I will continue to uncover the original meaning of scripture from the languages they were written in to correct any error in my doctrine.
12. I will allow others to believe whatever they wish, provided it's based on scripture.
13. What I consider error, I will only attempt to correct in those who want to hear and those whom I

3 – Mike Bickle (2012) "How to Recognize Cults: 7 Characteristics" IHOPKC ©Free
(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/How_To_Recognize_Cults_7_Characteristics-20121118.pdf)

4 – Romans 14:23

have oversight over.

14. I will correct only when the Spirit prompts me and only with the words I am given.
15. I will not allow doctrine to separate me from my genuine brothers and sisters in Father's family.
16. I will choose those with whom I will listen to and with whom I will spend time.
17. I will not label others as heretics, their doctrine(s) as heretical or their organisations as cults. The only proviso is what the Spirit tells me to address.
18. I will not waste my time arguing or debating with those who wish to remain in religion, legalism, the Old Covenant or in the Law.

Laurence

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