Brainwashing and Indoctrination

Tony Mauck · 2 Corinthians 5:10–11

INTRODUCTION

- Why do you believe what you believe about God? About this book, the Bible.
- Members of churches of Christ believe what they do because they are brainwashed, and worse than that, they brainwash their innocent kids to believe the same things.

1 A Couple Problems With This Charge

- First of all, this is denominational language, doesn't apply to us.
- We're not in league or affiliation with any other church anywhere by any title.
- If you had not been brainwashed, you would not have come to these conclusions.
- One definition of brainwash is to impose beliefs on somebody. Various coercive methods of indoctrination, including destruction of victims' prior beliefs.

2 Knowing the Fear of the Lord, We Persuade Men

2 Corinthians 5:10–11

- Am I asking you this morning to relinquish sway of your mind to me and let me control all of your thoughts and all of your decisions?
- We're going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things done in our body, whether those things be good or bad.
- Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men.
- If the Bible is true and reliable, and I'm convinced that what it is telling me is right, then I'm strongly going to persuade you and my children of these things.

3 Indoctrination Is Being Done Somewhere by Someone

- If I and we are not planting something in people's minds, rest assured that something else or someone else is.
- A lot of what you're being indoctrinated with is anti-God, anti-spiritual, anti-Bible, and anti-righteousness.
- He came that they might have life and might have it more abundantly. This is life, folks.
- We should never be ashamed or apologetic to say that we teach it or teach it to our kids or indoctrinate them with it.

4 The Bible Strongly Advocates Teaching the Lord's Way

1 Samuel 12:16; 2 Timothy 1:5; John 8:31–32

- The Bible strongly advocates teaching the Lord's way or indoctrinating.

- Samuel says, I'm going to keep praying for you, and I'm going to keep instructing you in the Lord's ways.
- The scripture that is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching. That's the idea of indoctrinate.
- If you abide in my word, then you are disciples of mine, and you shall know the truth. The truth shall make you free.

5 Teaching the Lord's Ways, Molding the Conscience

1 Timothy 1:5; Isaiah 5:20

- When you teach the Lord's way, here's something else that happens. You mold the conscience.
- It's God's automated warning system. But it is a creature of education. It will only do its job if it is properly educated.
- When that conscience says, what you're doing is not right, you had better listen and make correction.
- Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, and bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

6 The Nature of a Biblical, Truthful Indoctrination

Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16

- The nature of the teaching we're doing challenges people to think for themselves.
- If what I'm teaching you is not consistent with the Lord's will, reject it.
- The nature of the indoctrinating that we're doing encourages the open mind.
- Baptism doth also now save you. Not the removal of filth from the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Is that what the Bible teaches or not? And if it is, embrace it for your salvation.

MY NOTES