Questions And Answers: Liberal Churches

Tony Mauck · Titus 2:1

INTRODUCTION

- Labeling these differences is difficult. Nobody really likes the label that gets attached to them.
- I do believe that the best terms to use are probably sound and unsound. That's a biblical term.

1 Teach and Practice Sound Things

Titus 2:1; Titus 1:16

- While a church may be unsound in its collective work, individuals can be unsound in a variety of ways.
- But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.
- We need to teach and practice sound things because there will be people who profess to know God, but by their deeds they will deny him.

2 Understand Churches of Christ Beyond Labels

1 Corinthians 8:3; 2 Timothy 2:19

- We cannot rest merely upon correct labels.
- If it's the Lord's church, it's a church of Christ. It's a church belonging to him.
- If anyone loves God, he is known by him, 1 Corinthians 8 and verse 3, and that's really the bottom line on soundness.
- So if you thought we were in the majority, you would be wrong about that.

3 A Dispute Among Brethren 50 to 60 Years Ago

Galatians 6:10; James 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:16

- All of this stems from a dispute that took place among brethren far and wide 50 to 60 years ago.
- There were a lot of churches at that time who were supporting human institutions from the treasury of the church.
- You have one church that sponsors the work, and all of the other churches become subservient and assistant to them.
- This debate came to involve what was God's design for the local church.

4 A Lot Has Changed Since Then

2 John 9

- The treasury began to be used by some of the mainstream churches for social activities. Some have even gone so far as to practice instrumental music.

- I want to warn you against that kind of denominational language regarding church of Christ.
- The doctrine of Christ is the will of God, and we are to teach the doctrine of Christ.
- If we care at all about souls, we will warn where we can. We will try lovingly to influence people to practice truth and things that are sound.

5 God Is Going to Determine That, Not Me

Matthew 7:21; Matthew 13:30; Matthew 13:36–43

- Everyone who does the will of God goes to heaven.
- God is going to determine that. Not me.
- Just because we might be sound in regard to how we might use the treasury, there's a lot of other areas of unsoundness that could do us in spiritually.
- They teach them the exact same gospel that you believe.
- At what point is God going to hold them accountable? I don't know.

6 Am I Sinning by Attending an Assembly?

- Am I sinning by attending an assembly among those who practice error?
- You certainly can't contribute to practices that you don't believe to be authorized.
- Presence in an assembly does not indicate approval of everything that is practiced.
- If that's how you feel that it is received, then by all means don't do it. Don't violate your conscience.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you personally sound? Because all the corporate soundness in this world is no substitute for that.

MY NOTES