

The Brotherhood

By

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“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Matthew 12:50).

Unity and brotherhood are sound scriptural teachings, but today they have been so distorted that an entirely new religion is being built around them, a religion that ignores the Bible, rejects Christ, and opposes God.

In other days when men talked about Christian unity it was generally assumed that the purpose was to bring about a basic harmony within the framework of believers, thus strengthening the purpose of the body, which was without question the saving of man from an eternal death. While men differed over many doctrines of God, there was no question among them as to their sincere belief in the person of Christ and the cause for which He was sent into the world.

Humble and sincere Christian men spoke of “unity” and “Brotherhood” until the very terms became noble symbols of inspiration for devout believers.

Then Satan adopted them. Subtly, cleverly, he made these terms his own. Today the talk about “unity” and “brotherhood,” as used by the clergy and the press, usually has no similarity to the Scriptural idea of unity and brotherhood.

In the first place the present movement for church unity leaves every man free to decide by his own self-made rules what constitutes a believer. The common ground is not belief in the Christ and His work. The ground has shifted from God to man, and the center of this modern movement is “brotherhood.” As expressed by the editors of *TIN* in reserving a book by Dr. Wm. E. Hocking, “Living Religions, and a World Faith,” “The fusion of spiritual beliefs for the world faith of the future will be Cod-centered rather than Christ-centered. God is in His world, but Buddha, Jesus, or Mohammed are in their little private closets, and we shall thank them, but never return to them.” But Jesus said, “He that rejects me rejects him that sent me” (Luke 10:16). Therefore this “world faith” is a faith outside the circle of the Father, the Son and all those who are children by faith in the Son.

In the second place the modern ecumenical movement out-rightly rejects Bible believing people as having any part with them in their “unity” effort. Several years ago the outstanding voice of the movement, *THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY* summed up the attitude of the ecumenical leaders: “Christianity according to fundamentalism is one religion. Christianity according to modernism is another religion. Which is the true religion is the question that is to be settled in all probability by our generation for future generations.

The God of the fundamentalist is one God; the God of the modernist is another. The Christ of the fundamentalist is one Christ; the Christ of the modernist is another. The Bible of fundamentalism is one Bible; the Bible of modernism is another. The Church, the Kingdom, the salvation, the consummation of all things — these are one thing to fundamentalists and another thing to modernists.”

Any effort toward a unity on the basic doctrines that make the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian has already been refused by leaders of the ecumenical movement. Having denied the God of the Bible, the Christ of the Bible and finally the Bible itself, the ecumenical leaders recognize that “unity” and “brotherhood” cannot be established upon these things and, therefore, must be founded upon something entirely different from these. What is this foundation?

It is founded upon lies, upon negations and denials. The true brotherhood of Christians is based upon the truth, upon facts and revelations from God. The false brotherhood of non-Christians is founded upon the opposite.

The most glaring example is the use of the term “brotherhood.” Non-Christians of every description are using this term to tell us that we are all brothers. They speak of the “Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man,” and mean by it that both believers and nonbelievers are equally related to God, and to each other. According to the Bible, this is obviously false. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). The apostle Paul wrote, “For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God ... and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him” (Romans 8:14, 17). This is written to Christians, and makes it clear that we are the children of God only if we are believers in Christ.

In recent years there have been several important events that have, been hailed by non-Christians as victories over Christianity. One of these was the “Vatican Declaration,” a product of the Vatican Ecumenical council and now a part of Roman Catholic Church teaching. Paragraph 12 of this statement says, “We cannot call on God, the Father of all, if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man, created as he is in the image of God. Man’s relation to God the Father and his relation to men his brothers are so linked together that Scripture says: “He who does not love does not know God.”

The implication is clear: all men are brothers because all are children of God: a Christian is no more a brother than a non-Christian.

But the scripture is taken out of context. It comes from 1 John 4:6-8, where John is writing ONLY to Christians: “We are of God, he that knows God hears us; he that is not of God hears not us. Hereby we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God and knows God. He that loves not knows not God.” This is one example of how Scripture is twisted by the new exponents of “brotherhood.”

The declaration continues: “The foundation is therefore removed from any theory or practice that leads to discrimination between man and man or people and people, insofar as their human dignity and the rights flowing from it are concerned. “The Church thus reproveth, as foreign to the mind of Christ, any discrimination against men or harassment of them because of their race, color, and condition in life or religion.”

Certainly we must agree that the denial of civil rights and harassment of another person, because of his race, color, condition in life or religion, would be unchristian. But the declaration says that “any discrimination” against such a person because of his religion is “foreign to the mind of Christ.” It says that the “foundation is therefore removed” for any discrimination.

It is interesting to note that Jewish publications hailed this Vatican Declaration as a great victory for the Jewish religion, which rejects Christ, and thus rejects God who sent Him.

But are we to remove the “foundation” for discrimination? Not unless we remove the Scriptures. “Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or what communion has light with darkness? ... Wherefore Come out from among them, and be separate, said the Lord” (2 Cor. 6:14, 17). “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). Christ commended the church at Ephesus because she discriminated: “I know thy works and thy toil and patience, and that thou cannot bear evil men, and did try them that call themselves apostles, and they are not, and did find them false” (Rev. 2:2).

Jesus was the most discriminating of men when it came to religion. In an argument with those who followed the religion of Judaism Jesus said, “You do the works of your father ... you are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and stands not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.” At the end of this discussion, in which Jesus pointed out the difference between the Brotherhood of man under God and the brotherhood under the devil, the scripture says, “They took up stones therefore to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple” (John 8:41, 44, 59).

The effort to eliminate all discrimination between religions and make, all men equally children of God is an effort to eliminate the gospel of Christ. Christ came into the world, not because men are children of God, but because they are NOT, and cannot be God’s children until they are’ born again through Christ. “But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

The ecumenical movement, including protestants, Catholics and Jews, is designed to bring about a new “world faith” which negates the gospel of Christ and brings into a powerful religious and political fellowship a people with anti-Christ views. It encircles all who will join it, thus leaving outside all true believers in the work of Christ. These

believers are then to be branded as bigots, fanatics and enemies to the “brotherhood” of man. Then Christians may understand the words of Jesus. “If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own, but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you...” (John 15:18-19).

God’s warfare is not one of the flesh, Paul warns us. It is not one of guided missiles and atomic bombs. It is precisely this warfare of minds, the deception of Satan against the truth of Christ. Satan is called the “deceiver.” It is to be expected that he should use that which is dear to the heart of Christians, “brotherhood,” to draw men away from Christ and into the devil’s snare.

The Christian is nowhere told in Scripture to “unite” with anything. Instead we are instructed to grow in knowledge, to hold fast to the truth and to be of the same mind. That mind is the mind of Christ, and if we do this, we need never be worried about unity and brotherhood, for if we are united with Christ, we will be in unity with all the children of God.

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