

THE DANGER
OF WEDDING
GOD'S WORD
and the

WORLD'S
WISDOM



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***The Danger of Wedding God's Word
and the World's Wisdom***

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Systematically Teaching the Word

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The Subtle Lie

A growing number of evangelicals have been deceived into believing that the Scriptures contain the Word of God, but that they are not **fully** the Word of God. Little by little they have come to believe that the Bible is trustworthy in areas of faith, but that it is not accurate, or is lacking in other areas, like history and science.

Mixing the Bible with the thinking of the world is becoming more and more prevalent, especially in the church.

It's incredible that believers—those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb—are increasingly thinking they have found “wisdom” for living from “experts” outside the Bible. After

all, haven't we all read:

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Corinthians 1:20).

By accepting any authority in addition to the Word, these brethren willingly approve a **mixture** of worldly wisdom and the Bible. *This denies the authority of Scripture.*

Instead of going to their Creator to see how God expects His people to raise their children, behave in marriage, or deal with sin, they are going to the world. Scripture warns us:

The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Some believers think that the Bible is where one goes to find out about salvation, but when it comes to life's problems or decisions, they think they must find an

expert that specializes in that area. They claim the Scripture is all-sufficient, but in practice they have adopted a *low view* of Scripture.

Over time more and more Scripture has become adulterated until it has no effectiveness in the lives of those with this view. The impact on the church is devastating because believers cannot grow with a compromised Word. The church becomes shallow and weak, and believers become weaker and weaker without realizing it.

On top of that, these believers think they are becoming wise because they understand the world's wisdom and they're incorporating more of the world's thinking into their lives.

How the Low View of Scripture Enters the Church

This low view of Scripture enters the church subtly. Believers, with good intentions begin thinking they need a little more insight into specific issues, like raising their kids, or improving their marriage. They aren't planning to abandon confidence in the Word, they just want to increase their understanding by getting insight from an "expert."

The world is always coming up with an alternative to what the Bible teaches. For example, evolution is now an accepted alternative to the biblical account of God as creator.

As a result, some Christians now

think that the Bible doesn't provide truth on the beginning of the world and mankind. To get more "wisdom" they think they need to go to the world's science authorities.

This provides them with two opposing systems: the world's view and the biblical view. Genesis 1 and 2 clearly state that God created the world and Adam and Eve. The apostles confirmed the Genesis account:

All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being (John 1:3).

He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for by Him all things were created, both in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created by Him and for Him (Colossians 1:15, 16).

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many

portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world (Hebrews 1:1, 2).

Instead of standing on the Word of God, these Christians are intimidated by the scientific evidence. Soon science takes authority over the Scriptures.

As a compromise, they accept theistic evolution. They think they are softening the world's view by saying God created everything, but He did it using an evolutionary process. What they have actually done is wed the Word with worldly wisdom, *which results in a low view of Scripture.*

Wedding the world's wisdom and God's Word has become a serious problem in the church today. Some even claim that Adam and Eve were not actual persons and that we can't take the account in Genesis literally.

Their opinion is that Genesis is creation-style literature, not factual, and

that it gives us a literary setting of God working. They claim that we can take truth from it without believing the biblical account. The truth they take from it is that God is sovereignly at work, but as a result of injecting man's wisdom, the truth of the Genesis account, including creation, Adam and Eve, and sin, is lost.

Tell Me Something Practical

Some in the church do not see the Word as practical. They search for “practical” wisdom from worldly sources instead of the Bible. They buy into the world’s view that the Bible is out-dated and antiquated, that it does not offer wisdom relevant to living life in today’s age.

The Word **is** practical and its wisdom is timeless; it contains everything necessary for life and godliness for every generation:

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands. They stand this day according to Your ordinances, for all things

are Your servants (Psalm 119:89-91).

Jesus prayed to the Father, “Sanctify them in the truth. Your Word is truth” (John 17:17).

Everything necessary for living a godly life is contained in the Word.

It comes back to a denial of the sufficiency of Scripture. For example: “How do I raise my children?” The Scriptures provide plenty of instructions. Proverbs alone is a treasure-chest of wisdom:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Lois and Eunice, Timothy’s grandmother and mother are presented as godly examples because of their faithfulness in teaching Timothy the Word.

From childhood you [Timothy] have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith

which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).

God also addresses areas where we are likely to fail:

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart (Colossians 3:21).

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

From these and many other verses we learn that teaching our children to love God is our highest calling as parents. Still, there are Christians who are convinced that the Scriptures do not provide what they need to raise their children and they have been seduced by the world's wisdom.

When children are not taught to love God and put others before them, they naturally think about themselves first. The world's wisdom also instructs parents not to discipline their children

or they risk destroying their self-esteem and confidence. That is the opposite of what God says. *Satan is a masterful foe.*

Marriage is another area where counselors are making millions of dollars because Christians have taken a low view of Scripture and want something practical instead.

However, God has not been silent about marriage. **Whatever the problem, His instructions are clear. *The struggle is to do what God says.*** For example:

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them (Colossians 3:19).

Love is defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Men would do well to put the practical aspects of love described in 1 Corinthians to work in their marriage. Instead, many choose to find excuses, most put forth by the world, for why it is acceptable to not love their wives as God requires.

Wives, be subject to your husbands

as is fitting in the Lord (Colossians 3:18).

The wife is to follow her husband's leadership. The husband and wife are not to develop lifestyles that prove they can be independent of one another as the world would have us believe. The two are one before the Lord, not independent of one another.

Replacing or adding to the wisdom found in the Bible with the "practical solutions" offered by the world often ends up being an excuse to disobey God's Word. Again, the sufficiency of Scripture has been abandoned.

God Has Spoken

The foundation for biblical Christianity is that God has spoken. The fact that He chose to reveal Himself indicates that He intends to be understood.

This message from God, the Holy Scriptures, contains everything we need to know about Him, about our relationship with Him, and about the life we are to live.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

Keep in mind that the Word is not fully disclosing. It does not tell us everything about God, nor does it tell us *everything* about science or history. Even though God has not told us everything,

He has told us *everything we need to know*. And, everything He has revealed to us is trustworthy.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

It is foundational for the church to have a proper view of Scripture—that it is the Word of God in its entirety, that it is inerrant, and that it is trustworthy in every aspect.

Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (2 Peter 1:20, 21).

The Next Generation

The next generation cut their teeth on iPods, iPads, the internet and cable TV and they're used to being entertained. They have lots of energy and enjoy being on the go—whether it's Sunday school, church camp or a church event.

Youth Bible studies and activities should be enjoyable. There is a place for fun, but *what will shape the next generation is God's Word.*

When our youth gatherings only entertain and remove any proclamation or teaching of the gospel for fear of losing students or being offensive, the church has lost its way. The gospel is by its very nature offensive. But it is the only thing that genuinely changes lives.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

The proclamation of the gospel is the church's primary responsibility.

When Sunday school consists of a video, a skit and a ten minute Bible lesson, entertainment has superseded the Word and we have succumbed to the world and removed the one element that makes the church unique.

Our kids need more than just a moral story; they need to be challenged by God's Word. I am sad to see more and more churches raising their youth on man's wisdom and a little bit of God's Word.

The result is a "religious" generation lacking biblical understanding and discernment. We all know people who have spent their lives attending a supposedly Bible-teaching church, and yet their knowledge of Scripture is appallingly shallow.

Pillar and Support of the Truth

The church is unique in that there is no other organism in the world that does what it does. Its purpose is to proclaim and disseminate God's Word. The church should not replace or add to God's Word, but simply serve as the place where the Word is proclaimed.

Take Paul's letter to Timothy:

I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the ***church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth*** (1 Timothy 3:15).

The Word is our spiritual nourishment. Peter wrote:

Like newborn babes, *long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation* (1 Peter 2:2).

The church is made up of people who have come to faith in God and “*faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17).

What Is the Fix?

The further the church moves from the serious study of the Word, the harder it is to get back. The congregation gets accustomed to sitting back and not opening their Bibles. After all, who wants to be stretched when they can relax and still leave with a happy, religious feeling?

It sounds trite but the only solution to a low view of Scripture is to come back to the Word of God. The sad, hard fact is that believers with a low view of Scripture think they already believe in the all-sufficient Word of God.

Believers should come to church to grapple with the Word of God. Paul told Timothy:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who

does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Holy Spirit enlightens our minds as we work hard to understand what God is saying and how we should apply that to our lives. Questions we must each ask ourselves:

- Do I seriously study and interact with the Word?
- Do I expect the pastor and other teachers of the church to teach me the Word of God?
- Do I come expecting to work hard studying the Word of God?
- Is my life focused on obeying the Word of God?

It should be understood that when we come to church we're going to study the Scriptures. People of every age need to study the Word: children, junior high, senior high, college, adults, and senior citizens. Studying God's Word is not just an academic exercise; we study it so we

can understand it, know it, find God's solutions to life's problems, obey it, and live it.

Mixing man's wisdom and God's Word is a slippery slope. In another generation many former Bible-teaching churches may not be teaching the Word at all.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).