

## This Blocks Maturity and Unity

By

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### NOTES

Concern: Placing style and personality over content creates division in the church and immaturity among believers.

Examples:

- “The Bible Today—The teaching ministry of John Doe.” Creates followers based upon style and personality over content. Hollywood and Disneyland, not the shepherds of God’s household (I Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:1-11; 4:6-21). The end result is division and immaturity among believers.
- Taking a proprietary stance toward the gospel, as if the gospel is a product to be peddled and if ministry is about style and personality (II Corinthians 2:17; 4:1-2). This is not new; it has plagued the church throughout her history: personality and style over content; selfish ambition over caring for the flock (Philippians 2:19-24).
- Conferences: Same 5-10 personalities sitting on panels and speaking as though infallible. What happens to congregations when the local pastor is made to seem as a nobody compared to these giant personalities within Christianity? The local pastor is looked upon as a disappointment, less than; or the local pastor becomes filled with envy and wants to become one of the platform dwellers. This is not new: Matthew 23:6-7.
- There is no genuine ministry that does not belong to Christ. Ministry within the church is Christ’s own ministry over and to his body, the church. There is no legitimate ministry that is not his first. But I fear, like the culture, we are tolerating narcissistic leaders. When you were converted you heard Christ and what is needed is to continue to hear Him, not celebrity preachers (Ephesians 4:17-24; John 8:31-33). AMEN.