

4. Christians cannot be Possessed

The TEMPLE where God dwells

1. When our opinion based on human experience becomes our standard for reality, then we force God's revealed Word to conform to that reality

a. Opinion: definition

Opinion does not have to be based on fact or reality, it is a core belief / view held, that is of a higher estimated value obtained through what has been observed or heard.

Experience

Therefore since the holder of that view has not recognized it to be based on an absolute / fact of reality, his opinion will change with the next convincing wind of doctrine

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and swayed about with every

wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.

15 But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

What is a wind of doctrine?

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NASB95)

1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to

deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons

“For many will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

2 by means of the hypocrisy of those seated in their own consciences as with a sounding iron,
3 men who forbid marriage, and abstain, abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared to the pleasure

who believe and know the truth

4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude

5 for it is accepted by means of the word of God and prayer

that opens by God for our use

giving thanks

6 In pointing out these things, to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, CONSTANTLY exercised

on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine, which you have been following.

7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables if only the old women. On the other hand, discipline

yourself to the purpose of godliness

8 for while godliness is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things because it has the promise of life for the present and the future

9 It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.

10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God who is

the Father of all men, especially of believers.

11 Persevere and teach these things.

God's word must be more than just another opinion that we've adopted

If I only have an opinion about this subject, or for that matter any subject, then when new information comes along, my opinion can be changed.

But if I hold to an absolute standard truth, that the word of God is what it says it is, that it sufficiently supplies for us EVERYTHING for life and godliness, then it's no longer a weak changeable opinion.

Now I have an Absolute That Never Changes

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you by the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord

4 As His divine power has given to us ALL things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

5 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises,

6 that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

“For by His word we have received all that we need for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who calls us by His glory and virtue, and by whom we have obtained those precious promises, that through these we may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption of the world by lust.”

Godliness is performing to the standard of truth revealed by God.

It's being so exercised in that godly discipline that when doctrines of demons / demonic influence floats by on the wind, they are easily refuted in love

2. The TEMPLE of God:

a. Definition:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NASB95)

16 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.
17 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
18 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
19 each man's work will be made manifest; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.
20 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward,
21 if any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are a TEMPLE of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

They didn't know it because they were ignorant doctrinally, even though they had good teachers. Peter, Apollos had been there, and Paul. They had excellent doctrinal teaching, and yet they apparently were negative and they didn't understand it because they put little in no effort into it, so they didn't apply it, and they didn't exchange the human viewpoint in their minds for divine viewpoint.

Both the Old and New Testaments make a distinction between the overall structure of the temple and the inner sanctum of the meeting place with the presence of God

If you are damaging the temple, that means you are destroying God's presence and plan for your life—you are in conflict with God and the result of that is going to be both temporal divine discipline, as well as loss at the judgment seat of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NASB95)

19 do you not know that your body

is a TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit who

is in you, whom you have

from God, and that you are not your own?

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