

## AM I A RADICAL?

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Recently I read an article by a brother who maintained that Christians were coming out of “liberalism” and “radicalism.” Now I know I am not a liberal (“loosing what God has not loosed”), but I do disagree with this brother on certain issues. He might maintain that I am a radical (“one who takes an extreme position”). It is a sad day in spiritual Israel when one is a “radical” if he stays with the Scriptures and demands a “THUS SAITH THE LORD” for all we do!

**And I a radical because I preach what the Bible says about refusing to fellowship false teachers?** Fellowship has turned out to be of prime importance among us in the first decade of the 21st century. Many (including preachers) base their fellowship of others upon friendships and associations. They invite “MARKED” (**Romans 16:17**) false teachers to speak in Gospel Meetings, Seminars, and Lectureships. Their excuse: “Well, he is my friend, and he won’t teach any error here.” Friends can change, but the Word of God does not change. They forget the Holy Spirit’s decree: “IF THERE COME ANY UNTO YOU, AND BRING NOT THIS DOCTRINE, RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE, NEITHER BID HIM GOD SPEED: FOR HE THAT BIDDETH HIM GOD SPEED IS PARTAKER OF HIS EVIL DEEDS” (**2 John 10-11**).

Some of my preaching brethren have no qualms about appearing on the same speaking program with a false teacher and remaining quiet as a church mouse about his false teaching. Have they not wondered what the Lord would do if He suddenly returned and found them there? Would Paul have been on the same lectureship with the Judaizers of **Acts 15**? Would John have allowed himself to be on the same podium with a Nicolaitan (**Revelation 2:5-6**)?

A preacher should preach/teach what the Bible says about fellowship and false teachers. He should also practice what he preaches, always mindful of what the Lord sees and not what others think. “NEITHER IS THERE ANY CREATURE THAT IS NOT MANIFEST IN HIS SIGHT: BUT ALL THINGS ARE NAKED AND OPENED UNTO THE EYES OF HIM WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DO” (**Hebrews 4:13**).

**Am I a radical because I preach that compromise and toleration of false doctrine are great evils in the church today?** Speaking specifically of greed, but I believe the principle applies here as well, Jesus said, “NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS” (**Matthew 6:24**). We cannot oppose a false doctrine such as Elder Re-evaluation/Reaffirmation (in which the office of elder becomes a political football) while holding hands with those who espouse it and practice it. Some brethren have this strange spiritual weakness called “compromise,” which the Lord never had. For example, He did not hold hands with the Sadducees: “DO YE NOT THEREFORE ERR, BECAUSE YE KNOW NOT THE SCRIPTURES, NEITHER THE POWER OF GOD?” (**Mark 12:24**).

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The apostle Paul strongly opposed the Judaizers who tried to bring Gentile Christians under the Law of Moses. Peter opposed them also (**Acts 15:10**), yet later compromised his position at Antioch by refusing to eat with Gentile brethren when certain of his Jewish brethren were present (**Galatians 2:11-15**). Peter wanted it both ways. Paul “RESISTED HIM TO THE FACE, BECAUSE HE STOOD CONDEMNED” (**2:11**, ASV). Christians also stand condemned before the Lord when they tolerate false doctrine/teachers in the name of so-called “harmony” and “brotherly love.”

Lord willing, I plan to continue to preach and teach against false doctrine and to refuse fellowship with purveyors of it. Though at times it may be a lonely position, I believe that I am in good company.