

“NEO-CONSERVATIVES”

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Jesus warned the multitude to beware of wolves who come in sheep's clothing (**Matthew 7:15**). A wolf in sheep's clothing is attempting to persuade his potential prey that he is something he is not. If he is identified falsely, it enhances his chances of devouring a pursued-after meal. He is more dangerous than an undisguised wolf, because he appears to be one of the sheep. However, when his costume is stripped away, he is still a dangerous wolf.

In the church today, some brethren are claiming to be conservative, but it is a disguise. Their cover is the claim that, “I do not personally believe the New Testament authorizes instrumental music in the song service, therefore, I do not use it, but I can't say to use it is a sin”. Such a claim exposes this “neo-conservative” for what he really is; an old liberal wolf wrapped up in sheep's clothing. He decides not to make an issue out of instrumental music, does not oppose it, nor yet determines that instrumental musical accompaniment in the song service is a fellowship issue. Such a person is neither conservative nor sound in doctrine, Consider two passages.

A sound Christian recognizes that one's doing something that is not authorized by the New Testament is doing something that is not being done in the Name of Christ (**Colossians 3:17**). That despite the “neo-conservative's” contention to the contrary, constitutes a fault. If it doesn't; why believe there is no authority for instrumental music in the first place? If he does not confess it is a fault, he has denied his own position.

The brother who sees someone overtaken in a fault is obligated to restore him (**Galatians 6:1-2**). A fault is a deviation from the truth, and carries the idea in this passage of being taken by surprise or without warning; one who is fooled by a wolf in sheep's clothing. The brother who knows there a no authority for instrumental music, but fails to stand against it has loosed the command of **Galatians 6,1-2**, and thereby exposes himself as a liberal, not a “new” conservative or any other kind of conservative. He is just as much a wolf in sheep's clothing as the one who tripped up the brother who was overtaken in a fault in the first place.