

OPPOSING SOMETHING?

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Several years ago I came across an article titled, "Spirituality Is Not Opposing Something". The gist of this article is that opposition to things does not determine spirituality. Spirituality is based upon the positive, not the negative.

Spirituality comes from positive things. I can be against all the bad things in the brotherhood, but unless I'm for the Lord and demonstrate it with my faithfulness, I'm no more spiritual than those I oppose.

We all should recognize that we must be for the Lord and exhibit a life of faithfulness to God's Word. We also must recognize that we cannot be spiritual without opposing certain things.

The author of this article says "None of our better known 'opposers' in the brotherhood would rate very high on a spirituality scale" Since the author is opposing those who oppose things by his on scale of justice he does not "rate very high on a spirituality scale". I realize that he is not the standard. The standard does say: "JUDGE NOT, THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED. FOR WITH WHAT JUDGMENT YE JUDGE, YE SHALL HE JUDGED AND WITH WHAT MEASURE YE METE, IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN" (**Matthew 7:1-2**). This man has unjustly judged all those who stand against anything as being "not very spiritual." He should repent for such a statement.

The real question is, can we be spiritual without opposing things? The answer to this is a definite no. How a person be for the Lord without being against Satan? How can one be for the right without being against the wrong? This is what Paul speaks of in **2 Corinthians 6:14-17**:

"BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS: FOR WHAT FELLOWSHIP HATH RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS? AND WHAT COMMUNION HATH LIGHT WITH DARKNESS? AND WHAT CONCORD HATH CHRIST WITH BELIAL? OR WHAT PART HATH HE THAT BELIEVETH WITH AN INFIDEL? AND WHAT AGREEMENT HATH THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; AS GOD HATH SAID, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, AND WALK IN THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."

God, through Paul says you cannot be for Christ without opposing Belial. You cannot be for righteousness without opposing darkness, and such like.

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The article's author mentions some examples of what he is talking about. He condemns those who would "oppose modern translations of the Bible and use only those authorized by God: The King James and the American Standard." He has begged the question. The real question, or problem, is can we be for God's Word without opposing the perversion of that Word? Those who "oppose modern translations of the Bible" do so because modern translations pervert God's Word. Under the guise of a "Bible," they are creed books. The NIV teaches Salvation by faith only (**Romans 1:16**), premillennialism (**Acts 3:21**), and total depravity (**Psalms 51:5; Romans 7**). Anyone who loves the Truth must hate the perversion of that Truth and oppose that perversion.

He mentions that to "be regarded as spiritual" one must be against Crossroadism and the Boston church philosophy. Again, we should see the real question. Can we be for the church without being against those who would destroy the church? The Boston/Crossroads movement destroyed, divided, and damaged the Lord's beautiful bride for years. If a person wants to be for the church, he must be against this insidious movement, as he would oppose anything that would destroy the church.

He then adds some things that the "anti" brethren oppose. On the other hand we must oppose those who would add laws to the laws God has given. This is the trouble with the "anti" movement. Study **Acts 15** to see Paul and Barnabas' reaction to those who tried to bind something that God had not bound. We must do the same (**I Corinthians 11:1**).

I will mention one other example. He states, "Some think it's a lack of spirituality to believe the universe could be more than six to ten thousand years old." Again the writer has avoided the true question. The real question is do we respect what the Bible says or compromise with those who would destroy God's Word? Read the Bible, and one can readily see that six to ten thousand years is the approximate age of the world. If we are for the Bible, we will be against all attempts to pervert it.

I believe one last point needs to be made. We have before stated that, by this writer's own standard, he is not very spiritual. Also note that, according to this writer's standard, Jesus Christ Himself is not very spiritual. Jesus opposed many things. He opposed the moneychangers (**John 2; Matthew 21**). He opposed the scribes and Pharisees (**Matthew 15**), He opposed the Sadducees and Herodians (**Matthew 22**). Jesus opposed sin and error at every turn. That is one of the reasons that the world hated Him so much.

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The truth of the matter is that spirituality is based upon what a man is for and against. "HATE THE EVIL, AND LOVE THE GOOD, AND ESTABLISH JUDGMENT IN THE GATE: IT MAY BE THAT THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS WILT BE GRACIOUS UNTO THE REMNANT OF JOSEPH" (**Amos 5:15**). The Psalmist says, "YE THAT LOVE THE LORD, HATE EVIL; HE PRESERVETH THE SOULS OF HIS SAINTS HE DELIVERETH THEM OUR OF THE HAND OF THE WICKED" (**Psalms 97:10**). You cannot love God without hating evil, according to God. While man writes, "The truth is that spirituality doesn't come from opposing something," God says we must both love and hate. It is a two-sided coin. Be both for God and opposed to evil.