



The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 9

February 26, 2023

No. 9

Let Us Keep in Step with the Spirit

by Heath Rogers

There was trouble in the churches of Galatia. Paul had preached the gospel in this area and many Gentiles had been saved. Judaizing teachers followed Paul and preached a different gospel, compelling these Gentiles to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses.

The introduction of false doctrine always causes trouble. It creates contention between those standing for the truth and those influences to follow error. The Galatians were in danger of biting and devouring one another (Gal. 5:15).

To address this danger, Paul spoke in length of the battle between the flesh and the Spirit (verses 16-26). The Spirit must win this battle! Instead of walking in the flesh and producing its soul-damning works, these Christians must walk in the Spirit and produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Paul drew this section to a close with the admonition, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (v. 25). The word "walk" is translated from the Greek term *stoicheo*. This term means to walk, but its emphasis is on walking with others, not as an individual. Strong's defines it as "to march in military rank (keep step)." The Christian Standard Bible emphasizes this understanding as it renders the verse: "If we live by the Spirit, let us also *keep in step with the Spirit*."

The Holy Spirit is not a nebulous force leading us by feelings and emotions. He has set forth truths in His word for us to follow. Paul's admonition is for us to carefully examine the Spirit's teaching and make sure our life is conforming to these instructions. Walking in the Spirit doesn't mean we have turned off our brains and allowed the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives. It doesn't mean we are trusting our feelings or claiming guidance from on high. It means we are walking in the path the Spirit has left for us in His word. It means we are following His marching orders. Are you and I "in step" with the Holy Spirit?

Majority And The Minority

Judson Woodbridge

More and more what the majority does becomes the standard of right for men. If society does it, if the big church does it, then all should do it.

But in the Bible days the majority did not determine right. More often the minority lived and acted in a way so as to please God.

David was the minority who met the Philistine giant. God being on his side, he killed this great soldier and put the enemy of Israel to flight. (1 Sam. 17.)

Gideon and his army of three hundred were much smaller than the vast host of the Amalekites and Midianites. But Gideon won, though he was in the minority. (Judges 7.)

The prophets of Baal and the people were certainly in the majority at Mt. Carmel when Elijah made the test of right. The numbers were wrong, as so often is the case, and Elijah was right. (1 Kings 18.)

The people in the days of Noah were wicked; but Noah was righteous. He was called upon to save life for the earth by building the ark. "By faith" he built the ark and saved his house; while the rest of the world, by wickedness, plunged into destruction. (Gen. 6; Heb. 11:7.)

Daniel was by himself, as far as man was concerned, when he refused to worship the king in the place of God. The majority made their petition to Darius, exalting him to a place of a god. But they were wrong, and Daniel was right. (Dan. 6.)

Moses chose the minority and not the majority when he "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." (Heb. 11:24, 25.)

Christ was of the minority in his day, and the men he sent out were never popular. Their course was not determined by what the people said. Conviction based upon the truth revealed from heaven determined their actions. Listen to Paul, "For am I now seeking the favor of men or of God? or am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ." (Gal. 1:10.)

Then on the other hand we have examples of the minority being wrong. Consider Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5.)

Let us learn that men do not determine truth. Men are to discover religious truth and walk therein. The only place to go exploring for this, is in the word of God. It is all revealed in the inspired scriptures. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)

Be Careful, You're Bending That Twig

- by Leslie Diestelkamp

We are all aware of the old proverb that says, "As a twigs bent, so will it grow , " And when we seriously consider this, we know it is true. But it is so easy to forget this lesson. For parents) Solomon expressed the same principle when he said, "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) .

Parents, remember, you are bending that twig. One way or the other, to the right or to the left, for better or for worse, you are determining the course of life which that child will take. Be careful, lest you bend it in the wrong way!

Paul commanded parents to "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). This includes:

- 1) Train your children in morality - in clean thoughts, words, and deeds. "Wild oats" that are practiced in childhood and adolescence cannot be productive of purity later. If you complacently watch their immodesty in childhood, you can expect to see impurity in adulthood.
- 2) Train them in honesty. It is still the best policy! Help them to regard truth and fidelity as precious qualities. Show them, by word and by example that half-truth is only a lie and that a man's word should be as good as his bond.
- 3) Train them to respect authority, always - the policeman, the teacher, the parent, and the Lord. If they do not learn to respect the first three, they will hardly respect the Lord either.

Your children deserve the best you can give them. They did not ask to be born, and their destiny is not really theirs alone, but in your strong or weak will. And the best you can give them is not just measured in education, culture, financial security, etc., but in the character which you produce in them.

Yes, you are bending that twig. Be sure you bend it right.