

Seek The Old Paths

“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths...and walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16)

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A New Church On The Scene

James W. Boyd

Some may already know about it. Others may not yet have heard. Still others might not recognize it because they are uninformed as to what is going on. This new church is probably best called **The Jubilee Church**. It has its headquarters in the Nashville—Davidson County—Middle Tennessee area. (Other cities display the same kind of church). It receives a great deal of publicity in the newspapers and sells its wares through big extravaganzas like the affair they call Jubilee, where they heap to themselves teachers who turn them away from the truth with a list of speakers that reads like “Who’s Who” among false teachers, imported from all directions, alongside many local apostates, and teachers at **David Lipscomb University, Abilene, etc.** This is an annual assembly of those who no longer really care what the Bible teaches on so many things, but who aspire to be accepted by the world, to change the church to appease the world, even at the sacrifice of truth.

This new church is led by churches that once were properly identified as churches of Christ, like **Madison, Antioch, Woodmont Hills** (formerly Ashwood), the big three sponsors of the recent Jubilees. Their leaders are the leaders in this new church. They speak for the Jubilee Church, but not churches of Christ anywhere. Churches loyal to the Lord did not follow nor condone the message of apostasy coming from Nashville, but persist in the gospel *“beginning in Jerusalem.”*

This church has its own peculiar doctrines which differ in some ways from other denominations, but most assuredly in many points differ from the doctrine of Christ. Their approach to the Bible is like that of every false imitation of the Lord’s church on earth. “Take what you want,

and discard what does not suit you!” One of the major themes of this new Jubilee Church is to ridicule and destroy what the church of Christ has done, stood for, and upheld when faithful Christians took their stand on the Word of God and used the New Testament as the pattern. They ridicule the “old paths” to make room for their own paths. *“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, that can hold no water”* (Jer. 2:13). They have declined to defend their new faith by comparing it with Scripture for all to see. They can make greater gains among the naive, Biblically ignorant, worldly minded, and fearful people of the area who attend churches of Christ if they can create something big, exciting, and remain secluded and hidden from the light of Biblical truth upon their deeds and words. Many churches (once identified as churches of Christ, but now churches in apostasy), have become just branch offices of the Jubilee Church.

The Jubilee Church is composed of liberals, digressives, modernists, others who have become malcontent with *“thus saith the Lord,”* and who are enamored with the worldly “scholarship” and what the denominational world thinks to the extent that such as that reigns supreme rather than Scripture. Also, in the side rooms and wings of this new Jubilee Church are the cowardly people who profess love, but display no love for the truth and Christ’s church, because they just go along with the new church, attending their functions, announcing their efforts, contributing to their support, encouraging the multitude of false teachers brought in each year to propagate this new faith. These people are severe critics of

anyone who will still call for Scripture, but seldom, if ever, utter a word of criticism of the new Jubilee Church or its heresy.

This new church gets a boost from the so-called gospel preachers in that general area (with some hard to find exceptions) who never warn their people about the error upheld by the Jubilee Church or the false doctrines taught and upheld by the teachers in the Jubilee Church. They even attend the Jubilee. Possibly, they have their jobs to consider, and crossing the way of the new church might be professional suicide. Many elders in the area are too "loving" to stand up for the truth, and too fearful to teach their people the difference between the truth of the Bible and the errors of the Jubilee Church people. They have repealed, in faith and practice, the Lord's prohibitions of fellowship with false teachers. In their "loving" quietness, they let their people get the idea that all is well, so the devil has a heyday with tearing the church of Christ apart with false doctrines.

To contend the Jubilee Church has not changed what churches of Christ have properly upheld doctrinally is to deny the expressed intent of its leaders, and is a blind distortion of truth and reality.

This new church is composed of people who still call themselves members of the church of Christ, attend congregations that call themselves a church of Christ, retain properties secured by people who were faithful members of the church of Christ, but who now openly and without shame misrepresent the church of Christ, and steal the church away from the truth by their smooth words and fair speeches, pseudo-love and self-acclaimed piety and superiority. And, many follow their pernicious ways!

If a person wants a religion, and would like to still be identified as a member of the church of Christ (however erroneously), but really does not want the doctrine of Christ nor His church, but something that appeals more to himself and those who want to "do-your-own-thing," there now is a new church that will accommodate them, the church that has adopted the doctrine that it is better to convert God to man rather than man to God.

The fact that the false doctrines and doctors of the new Jubilee Church have been identified for years on end is of no concern to those who find refuge in the new church. Brethren could and

should have known what these false teachers have been saying and doing over the many years, but too many considered it "unloving" to oppose false doctrines. So now they are swallowed up in wholesale digression, contributors to rending asunder the body of Christ, and throwing the tremendous progress of God's people, in that and surrounding areas in years past, back to the dungeons of apostasy.

What do you do? **"Preach the word...reprove, rebuke, exhort."** A remnant will exist among churches here and there. They may likely be small in number (as before in history) but they will hold up the banner of truth amidst the digression, and **stand they will.** People would do well to seek them out and find them. One does not serve the Lord in truth, love, or faithfulness in this new Jubilee Church, being built from the ruins of division in churches of Christ caused by false doctrines.

But who really cares? Many do! I pray there are the "seven thousand" in the land! The hearts of the faithful are made heavy to see the righteous work of faithful and noble brethren of the past and present being trampled under the feet of the digressives of the Jubilee Church. But churches loyal to Christ will continue to proclaim the gospel of Christ, defend the faith and the Lord's church against all enemies of the cross. I intend to be among them, and urge others to be of the same mind and action!

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Nashville, Tennessee "Another Time, Another Place, Another View"

David P. Brown

Forty congregations in the Nashville area agreed to work together to "preach the word, to convert sinners, and to edify the saints, and to quicken the evangelistic impulse of all the churches." The auditorium chosen to accommodate the people seated 7,000. In preparation for this great event personal workers spread throughout the city to reach the lost, as 2,000 brethren assembled to practice singing. The largest church

of Christ in Nashville took the lead and a "rolling tide of enthusiasm" spread throughout the area.

For twenty days the primitive, pure New Testament gospel was preached. The two Nashville newspapers, the **Banner** and the **Tennessean** printed the sermons daily.

At the daily noon services, the crowd was never under 3,000, and the evening attendance ranged between 4,000 and 10,000. While braving a storm, 7,000 attended on the final night with 3,000 turned away. There were one hundred fifty-eight baptisms and twenty-five restorations.

Some of the sermon topics were: "The Bible," "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth," "The Power of God's Word," "Conversion," "The Great Commission," "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" "Repentance," "Baptism," "What Church to Join?" and "Reformers and Restorers."

Of course this effort was not any recent so-called "Jubilee" or the "Nashville Now" sound of the sectarians within the Lord's church; it was the first of five great gospel meetings preached by N. B. Hardeman in the old Ryman Auditorium. The meeting ran from March 28 through April 16, 1922, with brother Hardeman preaching twice daily.

Imagine those great crowds coming to hear one man preach the gospel! To have these great numbers in a day when Radio and TV were not available, when few people had automobiles, when the churches were smaller in number and when the city was not "Music City U.S.A." with all of the carnival side shows connected thereto, was a far greater success than any present day religious "Opry Land"—"I'm OK, You're OK," production. **BUT THAT WAS "ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE AND ANOTHER VIEW."**

Would any of the speakers of the "Jubilee" preach what brother Hardeman preached in any of his gospel meetings at the Ryman Auditorium? Would **Rubel Shelly** preach what brother Hardeman preached in 1928 on "Christian Unity"? Would **Lynn Anderson** preach brother Hardeman's 1922 sermon, "What Church to Join"? Would **Ray Fullenwider** preach what brother Hardeman preached in 1942 when he spoke on, "Can a Man Be Saved Outside of the Church"? After the second (1923) "Tabernacle Meeting" F. W. Smith wrote, "Never in the history of the South have so many been reached by the plea for a return to the church of the New Testament in doctrine, discipline, practice, name and worship." **BUT THAT WAS "ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE AND ANOTHER VIEW."**

Following brother Hardeman's second (1923)

"Tabernacle Meeting," which had the same great attendance as the first, was his debate with Ira M. Boswell, of the Christian Church, on instrumental music. Six thousand people attended each of the five debate sessions. The results of that debate silenced the sectarian Christian Church on that subject for years to come in that area. But in the great "Jubilee" of 1990 there was found among the exhibitors the Independent Christian Church preacher Don Dewelt's business, College Press Publishing Co., Inc. **YES, IT IS "ANOTHER TIME, THE SAME PLACE, BUT ANOTHER VIEW."**

The "Jubilee" exhibits ranged from Member of CC for Scouting, the brethren's universities, the "Family Entertainment Network," and "Ralph Henley Productions," to Cecil Hook, "Image Magazine," the "Steffin Sisters," "Joyful Noise," and "Acapella Ministries, Inc." If brother Hardeman had been blessed with all of these exhibits and more, plus a host of other speakers, he might have accomplished something. Surely, there must have been something to draw that many people to the Ryman Auditorium to hear brother Hardeman's sermons. **BUT THAT WAS "ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE, AND ANOTHER VIEW."**

The 1990 advertisement promoting the "Jubilee" said that such was a "celebration" of "our Christian faith." On the contrary, it celebrated the sweeping strides that worldliness and denominationalism have made in the Lord's church; and the end is not yet! **"IS IT NOTHING TO YOU, ALL YE THAT PASS BY"** (Lamentations 1:12).

Faithful brethren stand today right where brother Hardeman stood. **Not** because of who or what he was, but because he taught the truth of the Bible on those fundamental matters that are absolutely essential for people to know and obey if heaven is to be their home.

The Bible has not changed, but certain persons have. In His infinite providence God is presently trying the church; and while it will no doubt come through much, much smaller numerically, it will be greatly purified. Brethren, will we stand the test or be swept down the apostate "Jubilee" trail?

FROM ANOTHER TIME AND ANOTHER PLACE COMES GOD'S VIEW.

"For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (I Cor. 11:19).

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DOGMAIC, NARROW MINDED, AND LEGALISTIC

Thomas F. Eaves, Sr.

There are, in the church today, those who attempt to neutralize God's revelation to man with intimidation. These compromisers do not want to oppose error in any way, and are influencing souls to turn from God's word to follow the path of least resistance, i.e., the path of worldly acceptance and religious union.

Compromising Christian – I suppose you have the old foggy idea that some people are going to roast in an eternal Hell.

Christian – The Bible teaches that each will reap what is sown (Gal. 6:7-8), and there are some activities which will result in man's condemnation (Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-11). God himself teaches that some of his rebellious creatures will be lost (Matt. 25:46).

Compromising Christian – Why that is the most dogmatic, narrow-minded, legalistic thing I have ever heard!

Christian – It is the teaching of God's word!

Compromising Christian – You're probably an old moss back who believes that shorts and other immodest clothing, mixed swimming, dancing and social drinking are sin.

Christian – Yes, it is a sin, but not because I think it is a sin but because God condemns these acts as works of the flesh (Rom. 13:14; Gal. 5:19-21; i.e., revelling, drunkenness, lasciviousness).

Compromising Christian – Why that's the most dogmatic, narrow-minded, legalistic thing I have ever heard!

Christian – But it is God's message!

Compromising Christian – I imagine you have the same narrow views concerning divorce and remarriage.

Christian – God's word is very plain concerning marriage, divorce and remarriage. God's plan for marriage is one woman for one man for one life time (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6; Rom. 7:1-4). If divorce takes place it must be for fornication (Matt. 19:9; Mark 10:12). To put away a mate for any other cause and to remarry is to be guilty of adultery (Matt. 19:9).

Compromising Christian – Well, I have never ...that's the most dogmatic, narrow-minded, legalistic thing I have ever heard.

Christian – It is taught by inspiration!

Compromising Christian – Do you honestly, actually, truly believe that using instrumental music in worship is a sin, and that people will be lost in Hell because they use it in their worship?

Christian – It isn't what I believe that is important, what is important is what God has commanded. Each time music is mentioned in the New Testament (in the worship of Christians) it specifies vocal music (Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; 13:15; James 5:13). The transgression of God's standard is sin (I John 3:4). It is God's word which will be the standard of judgment (John 12:48-49).

Compromising Christian – That is the absolute end. That's the most dogmatic, narrow-minded, legalistic thing I have heard in my whole life!

But all the ranting, raving, intimidation and disparaging remarks do not change one iota of God's revelation to man. It still stands, and will continue to stand (I Peter 1:25), till judgment when it will be God's standard for judging the works of men (John 12:48-49).

The characters referred to in this article are not fictitious, they are real and exist in many congregations in the brotherhood today. May the compromising Christian see the error of his/her way and repent that salvation might be theirs in the hereafter.

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It's Not Just To Be "Contrary!"

Bill Jackson

We certainly know that some brethren, across the land and the world, look upon some of the rest of us and feel great exasperation. It has indeed been expressed in this fashion: "It seems we can do nothing to please you. You find fault with everything!" In the area we're now going to highlight, let us give assurance (and, thankfully, I know that I speak for 7,000 brethren yet, and their congregations) that we stand on ground not chosen by us for "contrary's sake." Perhaps the very heart of our concerns is that some things fashioned by some brethren have the object of bringing some into a fellowship

with those whom they cannot fellowship!
Therein we find a tap-root!

Do we remember the days of the area-wide campaigns in the 60's? We saw some very fine campaigns held with wonderful results. Brethren were working together in a fine way. Then, a digression. Men began to be selected as speakers who were known to be, and proven to be, unsound as regards the Holy Spirit, or the plan of salvation, etc. Emotionalism began to reign supreme, and efforts then were made, not to teach the first principles of the gospel of Christ, but to get every member of the church down the aisle to confess something. Questionable speakers and questionable tactics. And when some brethren began to back off, they were charged with being "contrary, narrow-minded." Then came the end of the campaigns.

Similar problems arise, and have arisen in recent times, when men attempt to mobilize the church nationally and universally. There is a natural skittishness and concern when some come up with the mobilization plans for the church brotherhood-wide. There's no denying that we, the church, have obligations worldwide. The Great Commission (Mark 16:15-16) and Peter's acknowledgement of duty that would take faithful men everywhere with the Word (Acts 2:39), lay worldwide obligations upon us. There's also no denying that brethren, in their local congregations, are the ones to do what they can with what they have, and as long as they live, toward meeting these obligations. The New Testament is silent on any machinery available to mobilize the whole kingdom. Beyond our knowing that, there are other factors, and again, it is not just a matter of being "contrary."

Look at the problem of a Bible school conducted across the globe. No one is opposed to teaching the Bible—using any legitimate means. But when it comes to "any person" in "any congregation" and with every degree of Bible conviction (and lack-of-it) being a Bible teacher, we have problems! In visiting over the country, I have been amazed at some of these "teachers" I've met, and have to realize that some of the most liberal of congregations and most liberal of brethren are then giving instruction to students, and teaching them to hold liberal views as well. Knowing this, faithful congregations have "backed off" from participation, knowing those with whom they would be associated, and knowing also that such fellowship is forbidden (II John 9-11). Being "contrary?" No, indeed! Abiding by truth!

Now, in more recent times, another new

mobilizing of brethren in a teaching program, and once more we must recognize the basis on which many brethren are saying, "We cannot participate." Let it be made clear that we'd like to see every person on earth taught the truth, and while we wish it to be so, we seriously doubt that anyone can ever come up with a "brother-hood-wide mobilization plan" to do it — simply because the New Testament gives no emphasis to such machinery. But, in the current "rage" of the day, the contacts are received and then passed on to a congregation nearby, whether that congregation be conservative or liberal, for the old paths or against them, true to the New Testament or not, etc. In the very arrangement of the plan, some of the most liberal of congregations are in the leadership of the program. In seeing that and being mindful of 2 John 9-11 and Ephesians 5:11, faithful brethren must back off and refrain from participating. Again, the charge comes that we are "contrary, standoffish." But, let the charges come! We can do nothing else, and still be true to the position that the Lord expects His body to hold.

In politics, on virtually every level there are "the planners." As the political organization rises in power and resources, more and more "planners" are required. In politics and in the military we find the oft-cry, "There are the planners and they are not the doers. They have not the time to do, because they are busy with the planning." We have found it so in the kingdom too often. Here's a man who wouldn't knock on a door in his community for \$50, but if the brethren will support him to go to a foreign land, he's out making the contacts! Back here, he may just be a "planner." We have thousands of brethren, in many hundreds of congregations, who are not using themselves on a day-to-day basis in the work of the Lord. Congregations should be working, for this is the organizational form Jesus gave the church. Then, along comes the "planner," and he works to get nine-hundred congregations involved in some project. The "planner" envisions all brethren, from all congregations, working in the bond of fellowship with agreement to lay all convictions on doctrinal matters aside. It is the forming a "union" whereby a real Bible unity is not a fact! And, as we stated, many brethren do have problems with being thrown in fellowship and participation with the most liberal and non-Biblical congregations. When faithful brethren thus refuse to participate, let no one charge "contrariness." It is far more than that!

We Are Going To Have To Defend The Truth Among Our Brethren

Ben F. Vick, Jr.

It used to be the case that brethren were willing to defend the truth against the sectarians (not all brethren are of that persuasion any longer) but were hesitant to go into debate with a brother in Christ. Such a disposition is understandable. A few years ago brother W. L. Totty told me that when he moved to Indianapolis in 1936 the anti-class brethren were constantly after him to debate. Two even came to his home and walked the floor, calling him a coward. Up to that time, he had refused to debate, because he did not want to give the impression to the world that the church was divided. But, having been continually hounded, he took up the sword of the Spirit and *"smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter"* and they left him alone. That segment dwindled to almost nothing, and the loyal church flourished.

It should not surprise us that we must defend the truth among our own brethren because we have been warned in God's word. To the elders of Ephesus Paul said, *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them"* (Acts 20:29-30). Peter warned, *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of"* (II Peter 2:1-2).

Every distinctive identifying mark of the church is under attack today

There were those in the first century who were in the Lord's church; and, yet, they taught heresy. There was a sect within the church which taught circumcision as binding on the Gentiles. They said, *"Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved"* (Acts 15:1).

It is clear that this group was within the church, based on Acts 15:5. Luke records, *"But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."* Hymenaeus and Philetus, *"Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some"* (II Tim. 2:17-18, are examples of heretics in the early church. So, should it surprise us that false teachers arise among us?

Every distinctive identifying mark of the church is under attack today. These attacks are not made just by those outside the body of Christ, but many within are speaking out against the truth of God's word in a number of areas. One of these areas which we are going to have to defend is the authorization in the New Testament for singing only. We are going to have to meet, not just the Christian Church on the issue of mechanical instrumental music in worship, but some of our own brethren who teach vociferously that instrumental music is a matter of indifference and that faithful preachers of the past and present have been and are wrong to take an anti-instrument position.

If you do not believe what I am saying, then read the following quotations. A brother, Dan Rogers, of Artesia, New Mexico, wrote to *The Banner of Truth*; and among other things, he said:

"The letter from the non-instrumental brother in the November issue especially caught my attention. I could not agree with him more concerning the anti-instrumental position. It is our 'sacred cow.' But more than that, it is a 'sacred cow' which needs to be slain!

"However, if it is going to be slain, those of us of the noninstrument fellowship who disagree with the anti-instrumental position are going to have to be courageous enough to speak out, rather than continuing to remain 'anonymous.' What if our names become 'MUD'? What if our reputations and ministries are destroyed in certain circles? Surely such is not too high a price to pay for TRUTH and personal integrity."

In another article by Dan Rogers in the same issue of *The Banner of Truth*, he writes:

"I really believe there are a lot of individual brethren among the anti-instrumental congregations who, like me, are tired of the anti-instrumental attitudes of pettiness and exclusivism, as well as those of opinionism and dictatorialism. They realize that the anti-instrumental position is wrong, and truly yearn for full and open fellowship with the instrumental brethren."

"I am totally in favor of the current efforts toward unity between segments of the anti-instrumental and instrumental brethren. I have been fortunate enough to have participated in one 'Restoration Forum,' and hope to participate in future ones, being completely committed to a course of full and open fellowship with my instrumental, as well as my anti-instrumental, brethren."

It was suggested in a letter to Brother Rogers that, since he has worked up the courage to speak out, perhaps he would be willing to defend his position in a public discussion. Such men as Rogers do more harm than good to the Lord's church by their weak-kneed position and their giving of ammunition to the enemy. The Lord's cause would join the apostates in body, for in mind they are already there!

Another brother, Greg D. Coldewey, of San Antonio, Texas, had the courage to write to *The Christian Chronicle* recently and say:

"We are *not all* convinced that a *cappella* music is the only acceptable form....I take issue with the definition of biblical principle. I find such things as a loving God, loving one's neighbor, justice and mercy to be biblical principles. A vague inference as to whether God prefers this type of music or not is not a biblical principle, but is at best a studied opinion, and more likely pure speculation...."

Brethren, as soldiers of Christ, put on your armor and get ready, if you are not prepared yet, to contend earnestly for the faith, for we are going to have to defend the truth among our brethren once again.

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(Continued from back page, *EXPERTS*)

Napier's assertions. Who commissioned the study? Who did the study and under what circumstances? What sort of measuring instrument was employed and what sort of research model was used? How rigorous was the statistical analysis? Where were the findings published? Were they subjected to peer review? I pose the same questions to brother Wilson. Surely these men have more sense than to make such damning assertions based solely on their own limited perspective. They must have known that such arguments would be challenged.

If these men have facts, let them be forthcoming with them. I will be the first to accept them if they can be proven. I will then wholeheartedly try to help correct the problem. However, I do not believe these charges are true! It may be that there are an inordinate number of degenerate perverts in the churches served by Napier and Wilson. The church in Nashville may be filled with incestuous homosexuals who are addicted to pornography, but I haven't observed this as being a widespread problem in the churches I have served. I seriously doubt it is an accurate portrayal of the churches served by Napier and Wilson either. Even if the problem were as widespread as they contend, it would not prove that it exists because of a skewed concept of the Biblical doctrine of the headship of man. I don't think Napier and Wilson can substantiate their vulgar charges, and I seriously doubt that they will make any attempt to do so.

Napier recently spoke at a preachers' luncheon in Houston, Texas, where he made some of these wild charges. He asserted that some ninety-five percent of all gospel preachers molest their daughters. When brother Bob Nave challenged him by denying the charges and asking for proof, none was given. According to the report, his reply was basically that whoever disagreed was likely guilty of incest. No facts, just a juvenile attempt at intimidation.

If these men are attempting to serve churches, their elders should demand that they prove their charges or retract them immediately. The retraction should be followed by an apology to the entire church of Christ. **Harold Hazelip**, as President of **David Lipscomb University**, along with the trustees, should demand their immediate resignation unless a retraction and apology are immediately forthcoming.

At a time when the country is beginning to realize that men have been emotionally emasculated by the ungodly lies of feminism, we should be joyously proclaiming the Biblical truth regarding the headship of man (Ephesians 5:21-25).

If we had been faithful to our mission, men would not be going off on "Wild-Man" weekends seeking to find their masculinity through neopagan rituals. As for me and my house, we will continue to live by the book, regardless of what men like Napier and Wilson claim. We know that we shall be judged on the basis of the Lord's word (John 12:48).

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Firm Foundation, Sept. 1991

EXPERTS?

Lindell Mitchell

I didn't think the pronouncements uttered by professors associated with Christian universities could be any more bizarre than what we have heard in the past decade. I would not have believed it possible to mount a more vicious attack on the Lord's people than the murderous assaults recently launched in the name of "scholarship," "New Hermeneutics," and being "relevant" to "Babyboomers." That was before I encountered the diatribe carried in the *Houston Post* on January 22, 1991, under the title "Experts Find Incest in Conservative Sects."

I am used to seeing the meandering of semi-literate "experts" given credibility by a hedonistic media. It is not unusual to hear them praise blathering stupidity as enlightened scholarship when it will advance their agenda or damage their adversaries. It is infuriating and sickening to see brethren lend support to such despicable drivel.

Gayle Napier and Gary Wilson have in my judgment done a terrible disservice to the cause of our Lord. The *Houston Post* quotes Napier as saying, "The more conservative the church, the more incest you have in families." According to the family life minister at the Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, speaking on a panel at David Lipscomb University, "We've so distorted the concept of headship and submission that we've produced a pathological family mode. The wife is treated second class, treated like one of the kids."

As Napier continued his flight of fancy, he is quoted as saying that "power-controlling addict" husbands have wives who say, "He sounds like my dad, and I don't want to have sex with Daddy." Then, according to Napier, actual incest might follow when domineering fathers turn to their daughters if their wives withhold sex out of frustration. While he was pontificating, our enlightened brother said that such power addictions are also evident in the church. "There's one socially approved place for power addicts besides the home, and that's the pulpit," he asserted. "We attract people who love to beat us up."

Napier was not alone in making ridiculous unsubstantiated assertions about the Lord's church and Christian homes. The *Post* quotes psychologist Gary Wilson, who sat on the panel with Napier, as saying that we are vulnerable to sexual addictions because "we don't know grace and mercy." According to Wilson, "You would not

believe the number of people who have sex addictions who are members of the church." The statements are at best the baseless babbling of deluded, ignorant men who are unwittingly serving to further feminist propaganda. At worst they could be scurrilous lies presented by men determined to advance a feminist agenda in the church. I am unable to foresee any circumstances in which such statements could be viewed less gravely.

If it is possible, I call on Napier and Wilson to explain to an insulted and degraded brotherhood what those circumstances are. I demand to know what authoritative studies support brother

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**Seek The Old Paths Lectureship
4th Sunday in July, 1992
"Most Needed Lessons For Today"**

This issue concerns the Nashville Jubilee and other serious problem areas currently raging in the brotherhood. It's time to speak out, call for a "thus saith the Lord" and to "seek the old paths" wherein is the good way. Are you among the 7,000 who are standing?

Seek The Old Paths is a publication of the East Corinth Church of Christ and is under the oversight of its elders. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in:

Jude 3; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13; Titus 2:1; II Peter 1:12.

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