

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ FEBRUARY 2016 ❖

LIGHT VS. DARKNESS

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 8:12

DARKNESS CONCEALS

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

John 3:19-20

WORLD DEMANDS: TURN IT OFF

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LIGHT REVEALS

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

John 3:21

JESUS COMMANDS: TURN IT ON

THE CONFLICT

Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Ephesians 5:11-13

REPETITION ≠ ESTABLISHED FACT – Untruths spoken many times are still untrue. A truth spoken once is forever true.

Succinctly

PERSONAL BELIEF ≠ TRUTH – There is such a thing as personal belief, but

Put

there is no such thing as personal truth.

SAYING IT IS SO ≠ IT IS SO – A statement made with firm conviction still lacks sufficient grounds to establish it's truthfulness.

Congregational Autonomy [Self Rule]

Autonomy: self-rule. Applied to churches it means congregational self-rule.

(Strictly speaking; Christ rules in all churches. Ephesians 1:20-23)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:17

Passages that indicate local rule:

“[rule] among you” 1 Peter 5:2

“in every city.” Titus 1:5

“overseers” of the church (congregation) in Ephesus. Acts 20:28

CONGREGATIONAL RULE

Elder (presbuteros) Acts 20:17. Originally it meant an older man, then one who by age and experience and wisdom has the capacity of overseeing.

Presbytery (presbuterion) 1 Timothy 4:14. (Form of the Greek word translated elder.) Board of elders, or eldership.

Bishop (KJV) (episkope) 1 Timothy 3:1. Overseer. To superintend, guard, care for, watch over.

Overseer (episkopos) Acts 20:28. (Same Greek word translated as bishop)

Pastor (poimen) Ephesians 4:11. One who tends, cares for, feeds, protects (as a shepherd).

Shepherd (piomen) 1 Peter 5:2. (Same Greek word translated as pastor).

Steward (oikonomos) Titus 1:7. Lit., a house manager; metaphorically used to refer to those given charge of the “house of God.”

CONGREGATIONAL OVERSIGHT

Watch – Counseling; guarding and protecting those under their charge from evil and error from without and from within; disciplining (including teaching); reproof, rebuking and exhorting.

Rule – Taking the oversight, assuming the lead. Insisting on a “thus-says-the-Lord” in matters of doctrine. In matters of judgment, doing what is expedient with due consideration for the flock.

Lead – Not pushing; not demanding, but commanding. Not as lords, but leaders.

Example – Example in morals, ethics, work and service, faith, and fidelity. Example in personal life involving family, occupation, community.

SUMMATION

Qualified older men (**elders**) comprising a body of elders (**presbytery**) who superintend (**oversee**) the congregation of the Lord’s people among them—caring for, feeding and protecting the members (**shepherding, pastoring**).

'THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME'

When one partakes of communion, one is remembering Jesus's crucifixion. When His body was nailed to a cross and His blood was shed for the salvation of all who put their faith and trust in Him.

FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT

[Paul] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that [1] Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that [2] He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day [3] according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

[1] HIS CRUCIFIXION

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. [and, we add "among whom I am, also."]

1 Timothy 1:15

[2] HIS BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

Romans 6:9

[3] ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

"Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

Matthew 26:53-54

WHAT HAS THAT TO DO WITH US? IT'S ABOUT . . .

THE 'CRUCIFIXION' OF OUR OLD SELF IN BAPTISM

Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.

Romans 6:6

OUR BEING RAISED TO NEWNESS OF LIFE

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

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### Salvation is personal: "Whosoever believeth in Him"

Faith is personal. Baptism is personal; Walking in newness of life is personal.

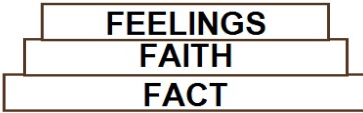
***He died on the cross for you and me. Let us live for Him.***



# Ponder This

## FACT, FAITH, FEELINGS

### The Proper Foundation



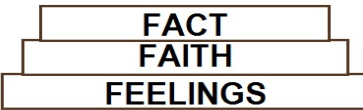
FACTS are to be the foundation for FAITH which support one's FEELINGS.

*"The Bible says, I believe, I rejoice."*



FAITH can not be the foundation for FACT supporting FEELINGS.

*"I believe it to be true" – unacceptable foundation.*



FEELINGS can not be the foundation for FAITH supporting FACT.

*"I feel it in my heart" – inadequate foundation.*

**In each instance the feelings may be the same, but only FEELINGS based on FAITH anchored on FACT will hold up.**

### THE SURE FOUNDATION

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock."*

Matthew 7:24

## A More Excellent Way

*But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.*

1 Corinthians 12:13

*"...in your faith supply moral excellence..."*

2 Peter 1:5

Where is the line between **virtue** [Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness] and **vice** [A degrading practice or habit; a serious moral failing]?

It's sometimes difficult to determine when a virtue has turned into a vice. However, every virtue must be seasoned with moderation or it may become a vice.

The following list is given to illustrate where the line is crossed. Christians should be:

- energetic. . . . . but not self seeking
- firm. . . . . but not dogmatic
- steadfast. . . . . but not stubborn
- tactful. . . . . but not timid
- serious. . . . . but not sullen
- stable. . . . . but not immovable
- gentle. . . . . but not hypersensitive
- tenderhearted. . . . . but not touchy
- conscientious. . . . . but not a perfectionist
- disciplined . . . . . but not cloned
- meeek. . . . . but not spineless
- humorous. . . . . but not a buffoon
- concerned. . . . . but not a busybody
- holy. . . . . but not "holier-than-thou"
- discerning. . . . . but not hypercritical



***We need to cultivate virtues, and to be careful not to let them degenerate into vices.***

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