

mar 30

don't be wrong in your rightness

"the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service." john 16:2

nobody likes to be wrong in their assessment of things. we believe we know the truth and others are merely confused or worse still, seeking to distort that truth. there should be no schism in the body of Christ. we are all called to be one, as He and the Father are one. and look at us now; all the denominations. catholics and protestants, lutherans and methodist; the division nearing limitless because we can't agree among ourselves.

and then, of course, we have the charismatics; often given over more to the flesh than to the Spirit. they too are often wrong in their rightness. i would even go so far as to say, any identifying more with a denomination than they do as a believer in Christ and a fellow sibling of all, this person would also be wrong in their rightness. Christ died for all while we judge their doctrine and find them wanting.

i see and hear so many fellow believers with differing views. do they go quietly to their brethren and seek reconciliation? do they meekly explain things as they see them and ask God to reveal the truth to both? do they earnestly pray for revelation in others for the perceived error they imagine them to have? no! they rage and ridicule, all the time claiming they have clearer understanding of the scriptures. they believe

they are doing the will of God. "out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. my brethren, these things ought not to be so." james 3:10 don't be wrong in your rightness.

what did Jesus admonish us about casting the first stone - he who is without sin? who here can claim that? who can claim they have proper interpretation of all scripture? i know i can't. we must always seek to "first remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." matt 7:5 of course, it goes without saying, all should be done in love. we are seeking reconciliation among our brethren; not to justify one over the other.

part of my daily reading is now in deuteronomy. i found this scripture jumping out at me. "corrupt men have gone out from among you and enticed the inhabitants of their city, saying, 'let us go and serve other gods' - which you have not known - then you shall inquire, search out, and ask diligently." deut 13:13-14

we are instructed to inquire, to search out and be diligent about it. many are actively trying to sow discourse among the body while others are merely misguided, often leaning more to the law than the spirit. and yes, some lean more to the spirit than to the law. (grace is not just a pardon allowing us to continue as before.) for justice to prevail the scales must be balanced. it is love that will balance out the scales.

by all means, walk in the truth you know. just make

sure it is God's truth and not your own. don't be wrong in your rightness. "if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God." acts 5:38-39 yes, there will be those who are confident they are doing God's will even as they plunge the dagger in your heart. "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1 pet 4:8 it will cover their "sin" as well. if we are commanded to pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us, how would you suppose we are supposed to pray for our brethren.

i want to close out with a favorite writing of mine located in the psalms. "behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! it is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. it is like the dew of hermon, descending upon the mountains of zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing – life forevermore." psa 133