



# WHAT TEARING DOWN TO BUILD UP CREATES

## Building a Sanctuary of Satan Upon the Ruins of the Righteous

INFORMED CHRISTIANS · FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017

By S. A. Hutchinson Jr.

I have frequently wondered why some people feel the need to build someone up by tearing someone else down. It is almost as if they have exhausted pointing out all of the good qualities in the one they are attempting to build up, so they have to point out all of the flaws in another person in order to continue the momentum they have started. The root of the problem lies in the fact that we shouldn't be picking and choosing who to build up and who to tear down at all. God says in Romans 14:19 **“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”**

*“So then we  
pursue the things  
which make for  
peace and the  
building up of one  
another.”*

He also proclaims through the Apostle Paul in the letter to Thessalonians **“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. (11) Therefore encourage one another**

**and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”** 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 NASB. Nowhere in that passage does it specify which ones to build up and which ones to tear down, so by rightly dividing the Word of God and by inference, we cannot help but come to the conclusion that we must be building up EVERYONE without any qualifications, or specifications other than those within the brotherhood being the most important. If we fail to recognize this, we missed the point all together. This does not give us license to tear down unbelievers; it just affords our brethren-the people of God-a special attention in regard to our **efforts**.

It took the Apostle Peter a while (even after witnessing the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit), to learn that God truly was not a respecter of persons. The part that Peter really needed help with was the application, since God does not choose favorites neither should we. He missed the point so much that he needed to be corrected by the Apostle Paul which the book of Galatians reports. Peter (called Cephas) was choosing to fellowship with Jewish descended

Christians over the Gentile descended ones.

Paul proclaims (and since all Scripture is inspired by God according to 2 Tim. 3:16), thus **God Himself** proclaims in the latter part of Galatians 2:11 NASB that Peter “**...stood condemned.**” That is powerful language indicating that God deemed Peter’s actions to be SINFUL! To choose to fellowship and to prefer these Jewish descended brothers and sisters over the Gentile descended ones put Peter in sin. Since the only sin God will not forgive is the sin not repented of, Peter needed to be corrected, to repent and to change his ways; because the result of Peter’s actions, whether intentional or not, was to build a sanctuary of Satan in his heart upon the ruins of the righteous.

Whether we are joking, or picking on someone, whether we are intentionally tearing someone down in order to build someone else up or even to build up ourselves because we lack confidence, it is sin and it needs to be corrected. Nothing we say or do can be treated as arbitrary and sometimes we write off our iniquities by pretending that our words or

actions are unimportant. The Christian cannot afford to say things without thinking them through and considering how it impacts those around us because that may very well impact our salvation. Ephesians 4:29 NASB **“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”**

I watched Kung Fu Panda 3 with the family the other night after dinner (I won't get into the subtle suggestiveness of Po having two dads), but the main reason Po leaves the Sanctuary unguarded for the enemy to destroy is that his long lost panda father informs Po that he can teach him to master the power of chi so that he can defeat the enemy. Come to find out his long lost father was lying and Po walks away mad. Po's foster dad who found him (who happens to be a goose), says to Po's panda father, “Sometimes we do the wrong things for the right reasons...”

## *“Sometimes we do the wrong things for the right reasons...”*

My purpose for this illustration is to point out that there is never a right reason for doing the wrong thing. Be it an “innocent white lie”, or building someone else up at someone else's expense, our God views sin as sin no matter how you spell it. Doing the wrong thing is always just doing the wrong thing. God has proclaimed in Romans 6:23 that **“...the wages of sin is death...”** and that particular death is **spiritual** death, eternal. Ecclesiastes informs us that sin separates us from God, so if we have sin in our lives that we have not repented of then we risk our eternal soul to hell away from God and heaven forever.

If you have sinned against someone by doing this very thing we just discussed, there are steps that you have to take in order to actually repent, if you cut corners then you only cheat yourself. Jesus Himself said, **“Therefore if you**

**are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”** (Matthew 5:23-24 NASB) Only until you correct your sin before the one whom you have sinned against can you then ask God’s forgiveness and repent before Him. Only then can you be right with the Lord. Cut that corner and you cut yourself off from eternal life.

The beautiful thing is we have Jesus Christ who was given as the perfect sacrifice. So if we need to approach the throne of the Most High, and beg for mercy and forgiveness, we have that avenue through the only begotten Son of God. God is faithful to forgive us our transgressions, if only we are obedient and faithful to Him.

So I urge you today, do not build a sanctuary of Satan in your heart upon the ruins of the righteous.