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well to enter Sychar and tell her neighbors about the Messiah (John 4:28). Think of Peter, Andrew, James, and John who left their nets and boat, the means of their livelihood as fishermen, to follow the Savior (Matthew 4:18-22). When Jesus says to drop it and go, a real disciple will drop it and go.

A Christian who is aware of unresolved conflict with another is sinfully wrong to proceed to assemble with the saints to sing, pray, give, receive exhortation, and commune with the Lord's body and blood. In fact, claiming communion, that is fellowship, with Him while behaving contrary to His will, is dishonest. *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth"* (1st John 1:6).

The very purpose of gathering with the church is undone by those who have unsettled disputes. *"Whenever you come together... Let all things be done for edification"* (1st Corinthians 14:26). Assembling is for edification and edification includes peacemaking. *"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another"* (Romans 14:19).

This concept of resolving personal discord as a qualification for acceptable worship was not new with Jesus. It is a timeless principle. Through prophets of old, God taught the same to ancient Israel. *"With what shall I come before Jehovah, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does Jehovah require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6:6-8). It is not that God is uninterested in receiving worship, but that the worship itself is of no value if not preceded by justice, mercy, and humility – which are all qualities necessary for mending damaged relationships.

DISCOMFORT FOR THE PRESENT

Lactantius, ca A.D. 311

He who chooses to live well for eternity, will live in discomfort for the present. He will be subjected to all types of troubles and burdens as long as he is on earth, so that in the end he will have divine and heavenly consolation. On the other hand, he who chooses to live well for the present will fare badly in eternity.

MANY ARE BEING DECEIVED BY A SO-CALLED "RELATIONSHIP" RELIGION

Jeff Belknap

This deception affirms that we can have a "relationship" with Christ without following any of His rules or regulations. The Lord stated that having a relationship with Him is based on *"If ye do whatsoever I command you"* (John 15:14).

Notice how we may *"know"* Christ (i.e. have a relationship with Him) according to the apostle of love: *"And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I Know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him"* (1st John 2:3-4; cf. 5:3; 1:5-7).

Jesus declared that rejection of God's commandments to follow man's way is an obvious manifestation of the blind leading the blind (Matthew 15:7-14).

As the multitudes continue to fall for a deceptive No Rules philosophy (Colossians 2:8-10), Jesus continues to say, *"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21; cf. Hebrews 10:36; 5:9; 1st John 2:17; Luke 6:46).

The faithful servant of Jesus will profess, *"Not my will, but Thine be done"* in all things (Luke 22:42; cf. 11:2).

IN THE APOSTLES WE POSSESS OUR AUTHORITY

Tertullian, ca. A.D. 200

In the Lord's apostles we possess our authority. Even they did not of themselves choose to introduce anything [new], but they faithfully delivered to the nations (of mankind) the doctrine they had received from Christ. If, therefore, even *"an angel from heaven should preach any other gospel"*, we would call him accursed... we therefore draw up this rule: Since the Lord Jesus Christ sent the apostles to preach, no others should be received as preachers [of original doctrine] than those whom Christ appointed... The Son did not reveal His Father to any other than the apostles, whom He sent forth to preach these things He revealed to them.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Don't forget to be a 'I need to work on that' kind of person in a world full of 'That's just how I am' people."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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"LEAVE YOUR GIFT"

Bryan Matthew Dockens

God in heaven is not obligated to any man or woman on earth to receive their worship. From the very first instance of recorded worship, when Cain and Abel sacrificed, God has respected some offerings while rejecting others (Genesis 4:3-5).

Jesus stated that one hindrance to acceptable worship is failure to reconcile with brethren. He preached, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:21-24). Although He couched the scenario in terms of Old Testament sacrifice, Christ clearly taught that a worshiper is disqualified from offering anything to God while another has a legitimate grievance against that person.

The Lord explained that reconciliation between brethren is not only prerequisite to proper worship, but that doing so is a matter of urgency. Think of the Samaritan woman who left her waterpot at the
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