

## When Men Love God!

In the days of Elijah, Israel was indifferent about their worship of God, and were therefore asked, *“How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”* 1 Kings 18:21 (excerpt) (NKJV)

The idolatry in Israel, coupled together with a lack of genuine love for the Lord, brought them to a place of compromise - having grievous consequences.

Elijah, with apparently little concern for the *feelings* of Baal’s prophets, challenged the false teachers to a standoff. He said, *“...you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.’ So all the people answered and said, ‘It is well spoken.’”* 1 Kings 18:24 (NKJV)

I am sure that when God “answered by fire” the followers of Baal were both terrified and offended. However, that did not stop Elijah, and did not stop the Lord! The truth and knowing it was of greater value than those whose feelings would be hurt by being shown the error of their ways.

When those wicked men were all put to death, even more were offended, including *“that woman Jezebel.”* (See Revelation 2:20) However, Elijah knew that making known a righteous standard – and keeping it – was more important than those men themselves. Their rebellion cost them their lives. If they had been allowed to continue, it would have not only cost them their lives but also the lives of many others who would follow their evil ways.

In the days of Lot, Sodom, *“...had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness...”* Ezekiel 16:49 (excerpt) (NKJV). In those days they engaged in homosexual and otherwise licentious living. As the result, God answered the cities’ rebellion by fire, declaring His holy standard. Like Israel in the days of Elijah, they too learned the same powerful lesson.

During the “ministry years” of Jesus, there were many who were offended at Jesus’ word. He, not unlike John the Baptist, declared what would bring a great divide into the culture, and nonetheless made known the righteous standard set forth in the truth of God.

In all these events, it would seem that God had more concern for that which was right than He had for the *feelings* of man. However, God’s judgment was not only a demonstration of His holy standard, but was, in effect, a way He would show man their need – and provide them the required instructions declaring His love for them.

All these things illustrate a great need of our day. They point out an egregious error being embraced by men in roles of authority and by others being led by them.

There seems to be a greater love for the feelings of sinful man than there is for the God who saves them. We are so afraid of offending men that we have become an offense to God. We seem to

care more about making the truth palatable to men than we are in making the truth of God known to them. In this we greatly error!

In the not too distant past, and even now in the present, we have more concern for the *feelings* of the LGBTQ community than we do for those very souls we wish to see saved from the wrath to come. We are more concerned for the *feelings* of the man or woman whom has sacrificed their children or child at the altars of “*pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness...*,” than we are for the children themselves, or for the God who formed them. We care more about being an offense to the Islamic person than we do for the offense suffered by God who provides the one and only atonement provided in the true Gospel, which has the power to save every Muslim man, woman, and child.

My call is not that we should care less for those who are sinning and lost. My call is not for an insensitivity or lack of love for those who have committed grievous error. My call is to demonstrate the love of God in such a way as to show that we love God more than we love those He has created. My call is to turn away from loving the creation more than the Creator.

If we are afraid to call abortion murder because we don't want to offend the abortionist or because we don't want to hurt the feelings of the ones who have obtained an abortion, we love men more than we love God.

If we are unwilling to say that Islam is a false religion and that Mohammad was a false prophet, we markedly offend the God of the Bible and desecrate the truth – potentially and consequently costing millions their lives.

Need I say more?

This is a call to love the Lord and to love the human family He created enough to tell them the truth. This is a call to remember that it is God who mercifully offers salvation to the repentant sinner. This is a call to remember that the prophets of the past and the proclaimers of today do not need to avoid telling the truth in order to make more palatable the Gospel so that God may save the sinner. This is a call to cease our failings and call sin what it is. This is a call to offer man the only hope he has – by the grace of a loving God – who willingly forgives sin and “*...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” 1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)

This is a call to remember what it means to truly love God! This is a call to remember what it means to truly love man!

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