

## Who Is Holding the Line?

Verb. **hold the line**. (idiomatic) 1) To firmly maintain one's viewpoint, principles, or situation; 2) to refuse to change one's practices or plans, 3) not yield to the pressure of a difficult situation. 4) Hold the line is a military term for holding or staying in place under enemy offensive fire.

When considering this question, the statement immediately turned to the condition of religion. Who's "holding the line" in the religious body you chose to fellowship? When we consider the condition of the religious world, especially as it applies to the nation in which we live, the tendency of religious hierarchy to change long held doctrines is truly amazing. It is not uncommon to hear of religious organizations that have changed their doctrines because of political or social pressure.

How many "doctrines" have changed due to political pressure, social pressure, or emotions? One female said, when asked, "I should pay attention to emotions and not facts?"

"Yes...emotions are the only thing that are real in this world" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrH32\\_Af6KM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrH32_Af6KM).

I would venture to say that most individuals have emotions: those that don't they (whoever 'they' are) call psychopaths. It is nigh unto impossible, except for Captain Spock, to rely totally on intellectual facts to determine every decision in their life. In many cases, proper decisions entail intellectual rational facts conjoined with intellectual rational emotions. Emotions are defined as "a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others." Emotions are comprised of happiness, sadness, disgust, fear, surprise, and anger, pride, shame, embarrassment, and excitement (Psychologist Paul Eckman).

"Irrationality is cognition, thinking, talking, or acting without inclusion of rationality. It is more specifically described as an action or opinion given through inadequate use of reason, or through emotional distress or cognitive deficiency. The term is used, usually pejoratively (*expressing contempt or disapproval*), to describe thinking and actions that are, or appear to be, less useful, or more illogical than other more rational alternatives" (Wikipedia).

Although some believe that emotion is everything, there is a truth that never changes, i.e., facts do not change but emotions do. So, what about the religious world?

Consider what concessions are being made and what concessions will be made in the future to fall in line with the demands of the future worldliness.

In an article written by Shane Idleman (<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/women-pastors-what-does-the-bible-say.html>) the topic addressed "women pastors." The author said, "In the Greek, the word for bishop is episkopos and the word for pastor is poimen; both terms refer to the same office, and they both come from masculine nouns that mean to shepherd or to care for. The qualifications for male leadership are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The Bible does not outline character traits for female pastors, nor does it use the words episkopos or poimen when describing their role. For those who agree with the position of

women pastors, where does the Bible list the character traits needed for this role?" In the concluding remarks the author says, "Times change, but truth does not."

Throughout the ages, man has brought numerous changes to the body of Christ. Many of those changes were the result of "feelings," not on a scriptural foundation. One prominent denomination "the first time in its 105-year history, the...General Council has elected a woman to its executive leadership." This election "has been meaningful for many women who feel God's calling on their lives."

It matters not the organization, whether it be in the higher powers of government, the Boy Scouts of America, or religion, feelings have shouldered their way into the changing of charters or religious doctrines: facts and truth have been pushed aside and yielded to the pressures of emotions.

Whether it be an individual, a family, a state, a nation, or the world, when the direction is determined by irrational emotions where truth and facts are discarded, the end result will be devastating.

There was once a king over Judah named Uzziah, who, "when he was strong, his heart was lifted up, so that he did corruptly, and he trespassed against Jehovah his God; for he went into the temple of Jehovah to burn incense upon the altar of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of Jehovah, that were valiant men: and they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It pertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto Jehovah, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honor from Jehovah God. Then Uzziah was wroth; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense; and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy brake forth in his forehead before the priests in the house of Jehovah, beside the altar of incense. And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out quickly from thence; yea, himself hastened also to go out, because Jehovah had smitten him" (2 Chron. 26:16-20).

Whatever it was that motivated Uzziah to even think he had a right to burn incense, it brought him only misery. Uzziah would have done well to have heeded the words of Solomon, saying, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

So, "Who is holding the line" of your spiritual life? (Intellectual rational facts conjoined with intellectual rational emotions or the pressure of social and/or political ideologies of men motivated by irrational feelings and a rejection of facts, and truth). ret