

Charles Haddon Spurgeon on "Separation"



"Neither when we have chosen our way can we keep company with those who go the other way. There must come with decision for truth a corresponding protest against error." -- C.H.S., *The Sword and the Trowel*, September 1887.

(Are you for truth or error? **Should you leave your church?** *L.W.*)

"Avowed atheists are not a tenth as dangerous as those preachers who scatter doubt and stab at faith." -- C.H.S., *The Sword and the Trowel*, August 1887.

(Unanswered questions = Doubt. **Should you leave your church?** *L.W.*)

"Believers in Christ's atonement are now in declared union with those who make light of it; believers in Holy Scripture are in confederacy with those who deny plenary inspiration; those who hold evangelical doctrine are in open alliance with those who call the Fall a fable, who deny the personality of the Holy Ghost, who call justification by faith immoral, and hold that there is another probation after death ... Yes, we have before us the wretched spectacle of professedly orthodox Christians publicly avowing their union with those who deny the faith, and scarcely concealing their contempt for those who can not be guilty of such a gross disloyalty to Christ. To be very plain, we are unable to call these things Christian Unions; they begin to look like Confederacies in Evil ... It is our solemn conviction that where there can be no real spiritual communion there should be no pretense of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin." -- C.H.S., *The Sword and the Trowel*, November 1887.

(Is your church welcoming ALL beliefs (UNIONS) into your church in the name of fellowship? **Should you leave your church?** *L.W.*)

"The day will come when those who think they can repair a house which has no foundations will see the wisdom in quitting it altogether. All along we have said that to come out from association with questionable doctrines is the only possible solution of a difficulty which, however it may be denied, is not to be trifled with by those who are conscious of its terrible reality." -- C.H.S., *The Sword and the Trowel*, July 1889.

(Think you can repair a house which has no foundations? **Should you leave your church?** *L.W.*)

"Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it ... Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin ... As soon as I saw, or thought I saw, that error had become firmly established, I did not deliberate, but quitted the body at once. Since then my counsel has been 'Come out from among them.' I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of distinct separation from known evil ... That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them." -- C.H.S., *The Sword and the Trowel*.

(Are you complicit with error in your church? **Should you leave your church?** *L.W.*)

"Ah, my dear brethren, there are many that are deceived by this method of reasoning. They remain where their conscience tells them they ought not to be, because, they say, they are more useful than they would be if they went 'without the camp.' This doing evil that good may come, can never be tolerated by an enlightened conscience. If an act of sin would increase my usefulness tenfold, I have no right to do it; and if an act of righteousness would appear likely to destroy all my apparent usefulness, I am yet to do it. It is yours and mine to do the right though the heavens fall, and follow the command of Christ whatever the consequences may be. 'That is strong meat,' do you say? Be strong men, then, and feed thereon." -- C.H.S., *Sermons*, 37, p. 426.

(Are you doing right by staying? **Should you leave your church?** *L.W.*)

"Constantly we hear of proposals for union, and truly these are welcome where mere technical matters divide true Christians; but what is the use of pretending to create union where there can be none? There is another matter which needs to be thought of as well as union, and that is TRUTH. To part with truth to show charity is to betray our Lord with a kiss. Between those who believe in the eternal verities and those who constantly cast doubt on them there can be no union. One cried of old, 'Is it peace?' And the answer was a sharp and true one. We render it thus -- 'What hast thou to do with peace while **departures from the truth of God are so many?**' The first question is, 'Are we one in Christ?' And are we obedient to the truth revealed in the Scriptures? If so, union will necessarily follow: but if not, it is vain to clamour for a confederacy which would only be an agreement to aid and abet each other's errors." -- C.H.S., *The Sword and the Trowel*, February 1887.

(Departures from the truth of God? Should you leave your church? (L.W.))

"For Christians to be linked in association with ministries who do not preach the gospel of Christ is to incur moral guilt. A Union which can continue irrespective of whether its member churches belong to a common faith is not fulfilling any scriptural function. **The preservation of a denominational association when it is powerless to discipline heretics cannot be justified** on the grounds of the preservation of 'Christian unity'... **It is error which breaks the unity of churches**, and to remain in a denominational alignment which condones error is to support schism." -- C.H.S., *The Forgotten Spurgeon*, pp. 164-165.

(It is error which breaks the unity of churches. Should you leave your church? (L.W.))

"I have preached **God's truth, so far as I know it**, and **I have not been ashamed of its peculiarities**. That I might not stultify my testimony, I have cut myself clear of those who error from the faith, and even from those who associate with them." -- C.H.S., October 1888.

(Are you ashamed of the peculiarities of God's truth? Should you leave your church? (L.W.))

- **Key Bible Verses:**

Exo. 34:15,16; 1 Jn. 4:1-6; 2 Thes. 3:6,14,15; Hag. 2:11-13; Gal. 1:8,9; 1 Cor. 15:33; Amos 3:3; Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Chron. 19:2; Titus 3:10; 2 Cor. 7:1; Neh. 13:23,25; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:20,21; Hos. 4:17; Matt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 5:22; Psa. 1:1; 2 Tim. 3:1,2,5; 2 John 10,11; 1 Cor. 5:11; Acts 19:9; Eph. 5:11; Rev. 18:4

(Should you leave your church?)

There are **NO GREY AREAS** when it comes to the Word of God: 1 Corinthians 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

Are you confused? Do you have peace in your church? (L.W.)

Jeremiah 3:25 "We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and **have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.**"

Are you obeying the voice of the Lord or a man? (L.W.)

Psalms 71:1 "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

Are you putting your trust in the Lord or a man? (L.W.)

(Should you leave your church?)

1 Corinthians 15:34 "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

NOTE: Where my initials (L.W.) appear is an indication of my thoughts and/or questions, not that of C.H. Spurgeon's.

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