

Grey Areas Have Crept Into Christian Thought

Genesis 3:1-4 [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”’ ‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman.”*

Satan disguised as a “friend” won the confidence of Eve and introduced sinful rebellion into the human realm.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 [NIV] *“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

This powerful tool of deception is still being used by Satan and his demons.

Matthew 7:15 [NIV] *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”*

Jesus Christ warned His disciples against deceiving false prophets.

There was a time not long ago when a Christian knew or at least could know the unadulterated truth.

The words of Jesus Christ were taken seriously.

A person was either a believer or not in New Testament doctrine, clear, sharp categories existed.

Black stood in sharp contrast to white, light was separated from darkness, it was possible to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, a true believer from an unbeliever.

1 John 2:15-17 [NIV] *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever.”*

Christians knew that they must forsake the world and its lifestyle.

Being a Christian and living a Christian life was straightforward and simple.

But over the years a quiet revolution has taken place.

The whole religious picture has changed.

Without denying a single doctrine of the faith, many Christians have drifted away from the faith in the simple and direct words of their Saviour Jesus Christ.

Preachers and teachers have surrendered the traditional categories of religious thought.

For them there is now no black and white, only grey.

Anyone who claims to have “accepted Christ” is admitted at once into the Christian fellowship regardless of continued worldliness of life or the vagueness of their doctrinal beliefs.

Speakers include much of human thought in their teaching from watered-down humanism to transcendentalism, and auto-suggestion according to Dale Carnegie.

Plenty of hopefulness and religious sentimentality, but nothing hard, sharp or specific.

Nothing either/or of Jesus Christ’s teaching or that of Peter and Paul.

Exodus 32:26 [NIV] *“So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, ‘Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.’ And all the Levites rallied to him.”*

This direct separation of who is on the Lord’s side is **not** preached.

Joshua 24:14-15 [NIV] *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*

A direct challenge to the people is **not** given.

Matthew 12:30 [NIV] *“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.”*

There are **no** grey areas in this teaching of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The notion is well disseminated throughout the ranks of current evangelism that love is all that really matters. For that reason everyone whose intentions are right, regardless of their doctrinal position, granted of course that they are ready to hear the scriptures and pray in public worship, must be accepted into the fellowship of believers.

Such a foggy creed is easily accepted by the masses.

The trouble is that the Word of God, the Christian Bible, teaches nothing of the kind.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 [Amplified Bible] *“O Timothy, guard and keep the deposit entrusted to you. Turn away from irreverent rabble and godless chatter, with the vain and empty and worldly phrases, and the subtleties and contradictions in what is falsely called knowledge and spiritual illumination. For by making such profession some have erred, missed the mark as regards to faith.”*

The apostle Paul strongly warned against such watering down of clear scriptural statements.

2 Timothy 2:14-18 [NIV] *“Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.”*

The apostle Paul strongly contended this distortion of the clear words of Jesus Christ, in this case the time and type of the resurrection.

Paul had handed Hymenaeus over to Satan for correction [**1 Timothy 1:18-20**] and considered what was being taught by these false teachers as blasphemy.

We cannot shape the doctrines clearly stated in God's Word, the Christian Bible, to match our opinions. If we do so we are putting ourselves above God.

Proverbs 1:7 [NIV] *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”*

Such action shows that those involved do **not** have a fear of God, and have **not** even started on the road towards Godly wisdom, that is taking on the character of our Creator God.

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