

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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Number 1

IS IT WRONG TO CALL NAMES?

Many sincere, religious people (including a large segment of brethren) think that **"it is wrong for a person to rebuke sinners and condemn error by calling names."** They think a person is narrow-minded, bigoted, mean and ugly if he calls names. Is this idea OF FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It can not be OF FAITH nor advocated BY FAITH **unless** it is taught in God's Word since **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17) Let us consider the following facts.

1. JESUS said: **"Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."** (Matt. 16:6). NOTE: Jesus called names. He specifically **named** two religious groups and warned against their **"doctrine."** (See Matt. 16:12). Did Jesus do wrong?

2. JESUS said: **"Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."** (Mark 12:38-40). NOTE: Jesus specifically condemned the **"scribes"** by name. Was Jesus narrow-minded?

3. In Matthew 22:15-22 JESUS called **"Herodians"** and the **disciples of the Pharisees** **"hypocrites."** NOTE: Was Jesus bigoted?

4. In Mark 8:12 JESUS warned against **"the leaven of Herod."** QUESTION: Was Jesus being mean?

5. In Luke 13:31-33 JESUS referred to **"Herod as 'that fox.'"** QUESTION: Was Jesus being ugly?

6. JESUS named **"the doctrine"** and **"the deeds of the Nicolaitanes"** as a thing he hated. (See Rev. 2:6, 15). NOTE: Jesus was specific. QUESTION: Did Jesus do wrong?

7. Jesus **named "Jezebel"** and warned against her doctrine and practice and those who followed her. (See Rev. 2:20-24). NOTE: Jesus specifically **named** her. QUESTION: Did Jesus sin?

8. Acts 5:3 says: **"But PETER said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?"** NOTE: Did Peter do wrong? Was he narrow-minded, bigoted, mean and ugly?

9. In speaking to Elymas the sorcerer, PAUL said: **"O full of all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"** (Acts 13:9-10). NOTE: This rebuke was given in the presence of others. QUESTION: Was Paul narrow-minded, bigoted, mean and ugly? Did he sin?

10. PAUL said: **"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed."** (Gal. 2:11). NOTE: This rebuke was **"before them all."** Did Paul do wrong?

11. In writing to Timothy PAUL **named "Hymenaeus and Alexander"** as having made shipwreck concerning faith. He said

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Editorial . . .

SOUND DOCTRINE AND AGED MEN

In Titus 2:1 Paul exhorted Timothy saying: **"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."** Sound doctrine is healthy, wholesome, true teaching. This exhortation implies that doctrine may be unsound. Jesus warned his disciples that they should beware of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. (See Matt. 16:12). We learn from Matt. 15:7-9 that worship is vain when men teach for doctrines the commandments of men. John said: **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** (1 John 4:1).

We have an obligation to **accept** and **teach** only **sound doctrine**. Timothy was to **"charge some that they teach no other doctrine."** (1 Tim. 1:3). Bishops are to **"be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers."** (Titus 1:9).

There is no way we can fulfill our obligation to **accept** and **teach** sound doctrine without teaching such fundamentals as the deity of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, faith, repentance, confession, baptism, the one church, the name of Jesus Christ and true worship. It seems that many so-called Christians consider this sufficient.

However, such is not the case. Speaking sound doctrine goes far beyond this. Let us consider some other **"things which become sound doctrine"** which we should speak.

AGED MEN SHOULD BE SOBER

In Titus 2:2 Paul said: **"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."** We should teach aged men to **be sober**. TO BE SOBER means **"to be calm and collected in spirit, ...dispassionate, circumspect..."** according to THAYER'S LEXICON. W.E. VINE says it "signifies to be free from the influence of intoxicants; in the New Testament, metaphorically,..." In order for men to be bishops, they must **be sober**. (See 1 Tim. 3:2). Soberness is lacking in many aged men. Aged men should be able to be calm and collected in spirit and be able to reason with a sound mind. Yet, the opposite is often true. Men who are truly sober are able to possess their souls in patience.

AGED MEN SHOULD BE GRAVE

VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS defines **"grave"** as **"serious..."** MOULE says "the word points to seriousness of purpose and to self-respect in conduct." This is not to say that aged men can never "joke" nor have any fun, but it is to say that aged men should never lose sight of their purpose in life and should always have self-respect in their conduct.

Deacons must be grave. (See 1 Tim. 3:8). Timothy was exhorted by Paul to show **"gravity"** in doctrine. (See Titus 2:7).

AGED MEN SHOULD BE TEMPERATE

Timothy was told to teach aged men to be **"temperate."** This indicated **"curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled..."** according to THAYER'S LEXICON. We learn from Acts 24:25 that while Paul was before Felix he reasoned of **"temperance"** as well as of righteousness and judgment to come. All Christians should add **"temperance"** to their knowledge. (See 2 Pet. 1:6). One is not practicing **"sound doctrine"** unless he curbs his desires and impulses. One must manifest self-restraint. An aged man who yields to appetites and desires and engages in drinking intoxicants, immorality, smoking and gluttony is not practicing **"sound doctrine."**

AGED MEN SHOULD BE SOUND IN FAITH

We should teach aged men to be **"sound in faith."** One's faith may be healthy or it may be unhealthy. To be healthy, it must be

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produced by hearing the word of God which is sound doctrine. It must be from a sincere heart. Unwholesome doctrine produces unsound faith. Likewise insincerity results in unhealthy or unsound faith. As men get older, they should become healthier in faith. One who is sound in faith will live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. Aged men should have **"unfeigned faith."** Timothy was blessed with a mother and a grandmother who had **"unfeigned faith."** This may account for the fact that **"unfeigned faith"** also dwelt in him. (See 2 Tim. 1:5 & 2 Tim. 3:15).

AGED MEN SHOULD BE SOUND IN CHARITY

Aged men should be taught to be **"sound in charity"** or love. Love is known by its actions. Bitterness does not dwell where love lives. In order for faith to avail it must work by love. (See Gal. 5:6). Many people feign love for God and for their fellowman. However, one who is **sound in charity** will have a genuine love for God and truth. He will also love the brethren and his love for his enemies will also be known. (See Matt. 5:43-46; 1 John 5:2-3). True love is not envious, does not boast and is not arrogant. It does not behave itself unseemly, is not easily provoked and is not selfish. Neither does it think evil nor rejoice in iniquity. True love suffers long and is kind. It rejoices in the truth. It bears, believes, hopes and endures all things. (See 1 Cor. 13:4-7). Surely, aged men should exemplify this love.

AGED MEN SHOULD BE SOUND IN PATIENCE

Timothy was also told to teach aged men to be **"sound in patience."** The word **"patience"** suggests **endurance, persistence, steadfastness or perseverance.** As a person develops **patience** he is able to remain steadfast under adverse and severe circumstances. He keeps on doing right although things become difficult for him. When the road is rocky and the going gets tough, the person with **patience** continues to travel in the right direction. He does not yield to the difficulties or the pressures of life. His faith secures him and he has hope as an anchor of his soul.

All Christians should add **"patience"** to
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he had delivered them **"to Satan."** (See 1 Tim. 2:19-20). He also named **"Phygellus and Hermogenes"** as having turned away from him. (See 2 Tim 1:15). He said: **"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,..."** (2 Tim. 4:10). He named **"Alexander the coppersmith"** as one who did him **"much evil"** and warned Timothy against him. (See 2 Tim. 4:14-18). NOTE: Was Paul narrow-minded, ugly, mean and bigoted?

12. In Acts 5:17 LUKE mentions **"the sect of the Sadducees,"** and certain of the **synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia** who disputed with Stephen in Acts 6:9.

13. In Acts 15:5 LUKE mentions **"certain of the sect of the Pharisees"** and in Acts 23:7 we are told that **"there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees."**

14. **Simon is named by LUKE** in Acts 8:9 as one who **"used sorcery and bewitched the people of Samaria"** who regarded him as **"the great power of God."** QUESTION: Was Luke narrow-minded, bigoted, mean and ugly? Did he do wrong?

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their temperance. (See 2 Pet. 1:6). We should be **"patient in tribulation."** We should be **"followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."**

It is a shame that many **aged men** have either never learned these **"things which become sound doctrine"** or if they have learned them, they have never put them into practice. Many **aged men** will insist on **"sound doctrine"** in other matters, but when it comes to soberness, gravity, temperance, soundness in faith, in charity and in patience, they fail to see the necessity and importance of these things.

In view of the brevity of life, the certainty of death and the surety of the judgment, we plead with **all aged men** to give diligence to learn and practice **all these "things which become sound doctrine."** ARE YOU PRACTICING SOUND DOCTRINE?

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15. The beloved JOHN specifically **named** "**Diotrephes**" as one who loved "**preeminence**" and who prated against John and others "**with malicious words.**" (3 John 9-10). NOTE: Was the beloved disciple John being mean and ugly? Was he narrow-minded and bigoted? Did he do wrong?

NO, Jesus was not narrow-minded, bigoted, mean or ugly! Neither were Peter, Paul, Luke nor John sin when they bigoted, mean or ugly!

NO, Jesus did not sin! Neither did Peter, Pal, Luke nor John sin when they specifically rebuked sinners and condemned error by calling names!

YES, Jesus, Peter, Paul, Luke and John **did** specifically rebuke sinners and condemn error by calling names! YES, Jesus is our example. (See 1 Pet. 2:21-24). His word will judge us at the last day.

NO, the idea that "**it is wrong for a person to rebuke sinners and condemn error by calling names**" IS NOT OF FAITH and CAN NOT BE ADVOCATED BY FAITH!

Dear reader, **where do you now stand on this matter?** With Jesus?

(CRS)

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

A new year has begun and we are still waiting to hear from **Albert Hill** and the "**elders**" of the West Hobbs Street Church in Athens, AL. It has been more than three and one-half years since they agreed to defend their giving gifts, prizes, etc. as incentives to bus riders to attend the services and other practices they have which are questionable.

It seems that they do not have the moral fortitude to either defend their practices or to apologize for ever agreeing to defend them in public.

We are not being unreasonable, are we, by insisting on the "**elders**" honoring their agreement? If you think we are, then please write and tell us.

THE SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE

The Sutton-Sharp Debate is scheduled to be conducted April 3,4,6, & 7, 1978. It is to be on the subject of Holy Spirit baptism. It should prove to be a very interesting and I trust a profitable discussion.

WE WELCOME ALL NEW READERS!

Sentence Sermons

Although sin is sugar-coated, it is always bitter.

The strong should bear - not bare - the infirmities of the weak.

Don't stay so busy laying up for a rainy day that you can't enjoy the sunshine.

The egotist is an I specialist.

Faith keeps the man who keeps the faith.

Many people want to learn "the tricks of the trade" without the trouble of learning the trade.

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