



Let Peace Rule

There are different groups of Christians within God's fantastic spiritual family. This news may startle some at first, but the Scriptures should easily set us straight. Let me explain.

All Christians are born again. That doesn't mean that everyone who calls himself a Christian is born again, but if a man IS born again, he IS a Christian.

(Rom 10:9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

This is our instruction for "how"



to become a Christian. If you have done this, you are born again.

But this is only the beginning.

God wants us to be more than "babes in Christ."

(1 Cor 3:1) And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

A newborn Christian, spiritually speaking, is a mere baby. He is not spiritual at all except that he

now has the gift of holy spirit

within him. God wants us to grow past this heightened state of ignorance. Here's how.

(1 Pet 2:2) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Until a Christian desires the sincere milk of the Word [of God], he will not grow out of spiritual infancy. Once he starts learning the pure Word of God, he will immediately start growing up. But that's not all God wants. It's one thing to learn God's Word; it's entirely another to live it. God wants His Christian family to faithfully practice His Word.

The book of Ephesians is addressed to the "faithful in

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Christ.”

(Eph 1:1) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

The term “faithful” connotes active participation and practice with God’s Word. This is the second group of Christians within God’s family that I’d like to reference. God wants all men born again, *and He would like all men to be faithful in Christ.*

This later group is one which understands the many greater truths detailed in the book of Ephesians. Additionally, it is one which also “practices” those same greater truths. Ephesians is divided into two sections: chapters one through three, and chapters four through six. The first section is doctrine to the Christian Church; the later is

practical instruction as to how to apply that doctrine.

In Ephesians, we find reference to the noblest Christian group of them all, the household of faith.

(Eph 2:19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

God wants his faithful Christians in His household.

(Gal 6:10) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

In Galatians, this household is called the “household of faith. *This group of Christians is an inner-sanctum of believers,* ones especially

concerned with the minute details of Christianity – especially regarding understanding God’s Word. It is a sad fact to say that most Christians are not regarded as faithful in Christ, and even more are not part of God’s household of faith. What proves membership in either or both? How one rightly divides God’s Word.

(2 Tim 2:15) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

It seems that God also puts a great emphasis on man becoming born again and coming unto knowledge of the truth.

(1 Tim 2:3-4) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; {4} Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto

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the knowledge of the truth.

Household believers are ones who demand evidence of belief within the Scriptures. They won't take hearsay or opinion or even tradition for proof of doctrine. Often, these household believers take a stand and draw a hard line in the sand when it comes to teaching doctrine. They will not regurgitate other men's teachings or doctrines unless and until hard Biblical evidence is forthcoming and documented. Seldom will they teach as Scripture anything that they haven't researched in Biblical texts. *There are so many subjects which are taught in today's religious circles that have absolutely no Biblical genesis whatsoever.*

Household believers wouldn't be caught dead teaching these to other Christians. By using the search tools in computer

Bible programs, one can quickly determine the validity of words, phrases and sentences. Household believers understand the importance of using the most accurate Bible versions available. For instance, the King James version is one of the most accurate Bibles in use today, and it has the most research tools for studying the Greek text from which it came. I use no other. Household believers understand getting right the concept of "to whom addressed." The Bible is addressed to many different groups of people. If you try to apply a section written to Jews, to Christians, you'll end up in a big doctrinal mess. Household believers are ones who demand evidence of belief, according to these principles, within the Scriptures.

This is the only thing that stands in the way of such unique and sought after membership. I've

seen many people do many wonderful things in the name of Christ. These people usually understand a part of the Scripture and diligently apply it. They are living proof that the Word of God, living and real in a person's life, is what differentiates them from all others.

But there's more, much more benefit to knowing and understanding God's Word. Perhaps one of the greatest is PEACE. Who wouldn't want more peace today? Our world is crazier than ever before. Everyone is trying to take his slice of the pie, often at a high price to others. *Demands are placed on our lives that don't seem suitable for even the strongest of humans.* Circumstances

and events change and transpire at an overwhelming rate; it is impossible to keep up with much

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of it at all. And all of this just continues to pound, without mercy, upon the lives and souls of us all. Maybe our minds can semi-comprehend, *but our souls are suffering, feeling wracked and ruined by a swirling of misunderstood emotions and feelings.* God knew this would happen, and He has lovingly supplied a solution.

(Col 3:12-17) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; {13} Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Colossians teaches us, the elect of God, that we are holy and beloved by God. Who wouldn't

want to know this today? He tells us to adopt certain actions and practices including having feelings of mercy to others, kindness, humbleness, meekness and patience. He tells us to put up with each other and to forgive one another, even if you are fighting with another believer. Christ was our example and we are requested to follow it.

{14} And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Charity is agape. It refers to Christian behavior as listed in 1 Corinthians 13. I'll leave this discussion for another day. But understand it's importance. With this kind of behavior, you are bonded perfectly together. Things will work perfectly in you life. Then we are told something remarkable.

{15} And let the peace of God

rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

We are supposed to let God's peace rule in our hearts, the inner most part of our minds. "Let" implies that God's peace is already there, within us, waiting, ready, and eager to take charge. God wants us to allow His peacefulness to encompass our souls. He wants us to manifest peacefulness in everything that we do, so much so, that we are thankful for everything that He provides. He's called us in one body – this refers to the body of Christ. We form a unique entity with Christ as the head and with us as members in particular. For this, we have so much to be thankful for! But really, how can all of this come about?

{16} Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and
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admonishing one another
in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing with
grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Once again, we circle right back to the importance of learning and understanding God's Word. Who knows, maybe God wants every Christian in the household of faith? You decide. In the meantime, be sure to learn God's Word, and grow up and out of spiritual immaturity into faithful believers. God's Word is supposed to dwell in you RICHLY. That paints an amazing mind picture, doesn't it? Wisdom is "applied knowledge." Practice God's Word in all areas of your life. Teach it. Help others with it and use songs to help. The Lord reference here is God, not Jesus Christ. We are never told to sing to Jesus, rather, only God.

{17} And whatsoever ye
do in word or deed, do all

in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to
God and the Father by him.

Verse 17 clarifies to whom we give thanks. It specifically says "to God and the Father." When we give thanks, we give thanks to God in the name of Jesus Christ. This is an example of the importance of researching God's Word. The Stephens Greek text, from which the King James version was translated, omits "Christ" from the translation, but the word Christ IS in the Greek text. Verse 17 should read "...in the name of JESUS CHRIST." Isn't that amazing?

I've put many things before you today. You need to make some choices. Do you want to be a babe in Christ, a faithful Christian, or a member of the Household of Faith? Do you want to use God's Word for your life, becoming the absolute best that you could ever

be for God? *Do you want to understand the Scriptures and use only the Scriptures for doctrine, forsaking man's opinion, views, and tradition when and where they contradict God's Word?* Do you want God's peace to rule in your life and do you want to express thankfulness to God for all things in the name of Jesus Christ? If you do, there's one thing that you need to start doing today – rightly dividing God's Word and making it your own.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown