

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Dear Liberal Friend

Bill Brinkworth

Dear Liberal Friend,

I am so sorry about how our friendship has turned out. I was so excited when I first learned that you were a Christian. Fellowship and friendship with another of like faith are very important to me. However, I quickly learned that your definition and my definition of being a "Christian" were completely different.

When one says they are a "Christian," I assume their thinking and lifestyle would be aligned with the Bible. Your "Christianity" is not what is described in my Bible. Matter of fact, most of the time you didn't want to discuss the Bible. When the conversation did lead to spiritual things, you quickly went on the defense and accused me of judging or argued the doctrine. We have spent more time discussing "what the Bible really means", as you keep saying, rather than agreeing on the things of God.

My other friendships with Christians have never been this strained. It is has always been easy and perfectly natural

for me and my other friends to talk about the things of God, because we are interested in them. You, obviously, are not.

I may not have been saved as long as you have been, but I do know that the Bible teaches a Christian should live differently than the unsaved. You seem to be very comfortable dressing like the world, talking like the world, acting like the world, doing things the world does, going to places that the world goes to; and your philosophies are often identical to what the ungodly world thinks. It's hard to tell any difference between you and the unsaved. I am not comfortable doing many of those things, and I feel some of them are against what God teaches in his Book for us to do.

The consequences of worldliness and its sin are some of the things I got saved from. The world is losing and not heading for Heaven, but to Hell. I have no interest in thinking and looking like the losing side. I lived that way before salvation, and I certainly did not have the joy or peace I do now by obeying the Lord. I think it is far safer and biblical to be more like Christ.

Clearly, the Bible tells us to talk to others about Christ, so they also can be saved and have the promise of heaven. Proverbs 11:30 says you are wise if you do this. You have ridiculed and tried all you can to stop me from doing this. No, I don't think it "is pushing God's Word down their throat" by telling them. If someone didn't tell me how to be saved, I would not be. I would feel very selfish if I didn't

share salvation with others, and would be disobedient to God's biblical command, if I didn't.

When I do witness to others, I quite often hear the word "hypocrite." The unsaved world knows how Christians should live. They have seen so many that call themselves Christians, and see that they don't live the way they should. After seeing more living the wrong way, they quickly assume that all Christians are hypocrites and living the wrong lifestyle. I certainly am not perfect, and am still growing spiritually, but the people they are referring to are not people like me, but are people like you.

I love being saved. It is so exciting to know that Christ died for all my sins and paid the price for them so I could go Heaven. I owe Him so much. My desire now is to live for and serve Him. Your liberal theology and lifestyle are doing much to harm and weaken the cause of Christ. It is giving those trying to serve and live for God a bad name and is hurting the testimonies of those that are trying to live right.

Sadly, I think it is time to part as friends. No, I don't think myself "holier than thou." I know what I was, and that I can fall back into my old ways. I am concerned that your disobedience may rub off on me. Association with your unchristian lifestyle will also hurt my Christian testimony. My desire is to be more like "Christ", and I want to have that reputation; so until your lifestyle becomes more Christ-like, our fellowship will have to stop.

Regretfully,
Bill

“Worldliness is a life-style that matches those of the unsaved, and it is far from having an appearance of a Christ-like, biblical-based, obedient-to-God life.”

Safe in the Ark

D. L. Moody

When the voice came down from heaven to Noah, "... Come thou and all thy house into the ark, for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation," there was a minute when Noah was outside the ark, and another when he was inside. By being inside, he was saved.

As long as he was outside of the ark he was exposed to the wrath of God just like the rest of those at that time. If he stayed out and remained with the others, he would have been swept away, as they were. It was not his righteousness; it was not his faith, nor his works that saved him; it was the ark.

We have not, like Noah, to be one hundred and twenty years making an ark for our safety. God has provided an ark for us, and the question is: Are you inside or outside this ark? Are you "inside" by being obedient to Him and by being saved? If you are "inside" you are safe; if you are outside with the rest of the world you are not safe.

“One reason the church has so little influence over the world is because the world has had so much influence over the church.”

Farewell, Vain World

Journal Entry of David Brainerd, April 25, 1742

Farewell, vain world, my soul can bid adieu;
My Saviour taught me to abandon you.
Your charms may gratify a sensual mind,
But cannot please a soul for God designed.

Forbear to entice, cease then my soul to call;
‘Tis fixed through grace — my God shall be my all.
While He thus lets me Heavenly glories view,
Your beauties fade; my heart has no room for you.

“The one enemy that has taken the most soldiers of Christ out of spiritual warfare is worldliness! Do not be its next casualty!”

— Bill Brinkworth

Immersed in Worldly Cares

Flavel, 1881

We keep ourselves in such a continual hurry and crowd of cares, thoughts, and employments about the things of the body, that we can find little time to be alone; communing with our own hearts about our great concernments of eternity.

It is with many of us as it was with Archimedes. He was so intent upon drawing his mathematical schemes that though all the city was in alarm, the enemy had taken it by storm, the streets filled with dead bodies, the soldiers came into his particular house, entered into his study, and plucked him by his sleeve before he took any notice of it. Even so, many men's hearts are so profoundly immersed and drowned in earthly cares, thoughts, projects, or pleasures, that death must come to their very house and pull them by the sleeve before they will begin to awake, and come to a serious consideration of things more important — like their eternal soul!

“If you can get along with the world, then you are out of step with God!”

— *Dr. Harold Sighler*

Stream of Worldliness

T. Adams, 1881

A river leads a man through sweet meadows, green woods, fertile pastures, fruit-laden fields, by glorious buildings, strong forts, famous cities; yet at the end it brings him to the salt sea where things are far from lush and green. The stream of the world carries one along through rich commodities, voluptuous delights, stately dignities, but after all this brings a man to death; after death it brings him to judgment, and then to Hell.

“The things of this world, like Absalom’s mule (II Sam. 18:9), run away and leave us when we have most need of them.” — *Venning*