

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”-Psalm 119:105

August 29, 2004

Conservative!

Aude McKee

To distinguish between brethren who hold to a “thus-saith-the-Lord” and those who are loose in their attitude toward authority, the words “liberal” and “conservative” have become quite common. It may be that we have come to think of ourselves as “conservative” merely because we oppose human institutions attaching themselves to the Lord’s church, and we refuse to see the Lord’s church turned into a social club, and we maintain that elders are limited in their oversight to “the flock of God among them” (1 Pet. 5:2). But there is a great deal more to being “conservative” in our attitude toward authority.

Probably the area in which a lack of respect for authority is most manifest on the part of those who claim to be “conservative” is in day-to-day living. Christians who use bad language and tell off-color jokes lack a proper respect for authority no matter what else they oppose, and thus they are not really “conservative.” Those who fail to adorn themselves in modest apparel when they appear in public do not respect divine authority and, therefore, are not “conservative” no matter what claims they may make!

Are we looking for “perfection”? No, sir, but for people who are trying their best. How much effort do you make to “let your speech be always with grace seasoned with salt” (Col. 4:6)? How much effort do you make to always appear in public places clothed in such a manner that people are impressed with the fact that you walk with the Lord? How much effort do you make to always tell the truth, never to be dishonest in any way, to always say what ought to be said about other people?

How “conservative” are you -- really?

“Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.”—Psalm 71:3

The Drift Is Real

David Posey

There are men who are preaching and teaching who do not properly respect the authority of Scripture. Some allow emotion to rule, and so they just cannot accept the difficult scriptural teaching on marriage and divorce or church discipline, for just two examples. Others maybe loathe to have anyone in the local church where they preach think ill of them, so they avoid the mention of controversial subjects, such as immodest apparel, dancing, social drinking, and other moral issues. In some places, preaching on subjects like hospitality may get a man in trouble, and so they avoid those “touchy issues.” Still others may have a more sinister aim and are actually setting out to deceive brethren, whether from greed or power or some other evil motive. Others may just be naive or ignorant, not fully taught and lacking perspective. Maybe some, in their desire to be “relevant,” have lost sight of the real purpose of preaching.

Whatever the reason, no man worthy of the name “preacher” has authority to preach anything except that which comes from Scripture. For a man to stand before a group of people with a Bible in his hand and then abandon that word to protect income, ego, or status is worthy of the stronger censure. The same is true of the man who withholds what he knows the congregation needs. When he knows there are activities going on or philosophies embraced that fuel the devil’s fire and yet refuses to address those issues by name, he is anathema.

We only have a right to preach the word, and we must preach it all. Paul said, “I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). Perhaps there are some who preach sermon after sermon on the very issues mentioned above (drinking, dancing, immodesty) to an agreeable crowd but never touch the hospitality issue because that would actually convict one of the elders of sin (1 Tim 3:2). Is there a preacher preaching for a church of people mostly over 60 years of age who, week-after-week, rails against homosexuality and abortion but never once deals with the necessity of using the gifts God has given us until the day we

die? Is Romans 12:6-13 age-sensitive? Are some exempt? Are there sermons being preached on displaying our commitment to Christ through the commitment to the local group (or would the RV crowd rebel against that kind of preaching?)?

Count your blessings.

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24).