

SPIRITUAL PEACE TREATIES

(Eph.4:20) But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus

(Eph.4:20) you (pl) learn – **manthano** AAI – to learn as a disciple; to learn by inquiry, by observing the lifestyle of the teacher & by taking on his habits of thinking & behaving; to learn by use & practice;

(Eph.4:20) Christ – all that a believer is to learn, understand & live out about our relationship with Messiah.

(Eph.4:20) this way – referring to vs 17-19, believers in reversionism dominated by greed & pleasure seeking.

(Eph.4:21) if – 1cc – [if & its true] – since you heard Him & were taught the truth in regard to Jesus

(Eph.4:22-24)

- You did not learn Christ this way – to be saved yet live the same life you did as an unbeliever

Questions:

- **Who did learn Christ this way?**
- **Has anyone been taught that the saved can continue living the old way and be pleasing to God?**

(Eph 4:1) – walk worthy of your calling – vs 1-16 describes the worthy walk; 17-19 the unworthy walk

- Have we determined that we can live CWL halfhearted, showing for bible class, even be hungry to hear interesting concepts, yet never change inside, having stopped challenging self?

Ritualism – spiritual by performing rituals – Catholicism

Emotionalism – spiritual by feeling good or emotional frenzy – charismatics

Programism – spiritual by attendance & participation in programs – Baptist

Legalism – spiritual by keeping rules & being moral – Church of Christ

Intellectualism – spiritual by learning & knowing biblical facts – Bible Teaching Churches

- Any believer in any of these churches can faithfully attend, appear to be obedient to the particular type of worship, yet in their heart never truly change from their old way of life.
- Any of us can go through the motions and yet fall far short of the spiritual life
- In every generation of the church, there have been the majority who adhered to the outer form of the spiritual life yet never opened their heart to the Lord – never even known themselves.
- Looking honestly at ourselves (1Cor 11:28, 2Cor 13:5), deep into our own heart to see our flaws so that we might be transformed & changed is very difficult and yet there is no other life for us.

Eliminating all that is not of the Lord

(Deut.7:1-5) – When Israel came into the land - charam – the ban, to destroy, eliminate, exterminate

- make no treaty with them, show them no mercy, destroy them, men, women, children, animals
- God won their victories for them – They chose to obey and He gave them victory

The nations they allowed to remain, became their source of temptation & their enemies.

Negotiating a Compromise with Old Self – Making treaties with OM Viewpoints

- a) We are born spiritually dead, separated from God, unable to understand God, with a sin nature in the devil's world – difficult to imagine a darker situation for the human race.
- b) We begin life as a blank slate – tabula rasa – with no self-formed beliefs about life
- c) We develop our initial views of life in this status – build our ideas without God - independent
- d) We adopt our ideas, habituate them into automatic patterns of thinking & use the views that come from these ideas to live out our pursuit of happiness.

- e) Our culture determines much about how we form ourselves - 1st century Turkey, vs 17-19 describes the unrestrained lascivious lifestyles of many in that idolatrous culture; 1950-60's USA was very different for me – we build our ideas out of the general consensus of the culture
 - f) Once adopted, habituated & lost from awareness our OM belief system is deeply ingrained, comfortable, feels normal & right – “that is just the way I am” the way you have chosen to be
 - g) Most of our OM beliefs operate below the level of conscious awareness - subconscious
 - h) Observing the OM beliefs is difficult initially & few seem to see the need for changing them.
 - i) Easier just to focus on the positives (NM in Christ) & let sleeping dogs lie.
 - j) Changing deeply ingrained beliefs & behaviors is difficult, so we negotiate a treaty with self
 - k) Challenging what is in our hearts to the core is the only way to be obedient to the Lord.
- l) **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

(Eph.4:22) put off – apothemi AMInf – take off layers of clothing, take off layers of beliefs & behaviors

- to remove, to eliminate, to erase beliefs that lead to thoughts, feelings, words & actions

(Eph.4:22) old self – old belief – behavior system that we developed from culture, distorted by OSN

(Eph.4:22) deceitful desires – desire tells us that any means of fulfillment is acceptable – just do it

- a) All behavior begins with belief → thinking (visual/verbal) → feeling → words/action
- b) To take off OM lifestyle means that the behaviors down to the beliefs must be rooted out of the heart & thrown off, to be believed no more, to be used to deal with life no more.

Bitter Anger: based on a belief:

- a. mistreated
- b. others to blame
- c. God didn't allow it
- d. deserves to be mad
- e. anger will help communicate intensity
- f. help solve problem

Fear: based on belief

- a. you are in danger of loss
 - b. God not in control
 - c. what you lose will destroy
 - d. can't be replaced
 - e. tragedy
1. Spiritual logic dictates that every believer retains habituated, automatic OM beliefs in the heart
 2. These beliefs are seldom seen except through the fruit of their behavior in bel's intimate life
 3. Beliefs produce behavior, with these beliefs seen especially in our close relationships that require honesty & genuineness
 4. To permanently change behavior, the root belief causing the logic that creates that behavior must be observed & rejected
 5. Beliefs are rejected by observing them functioning in the moment & refuting their assertions
 6. The content of the belief determines the fruit – i.e. the behavior – lies or truth