

DOCTRINAL CORRECTION: THE PROPER WAY TO DO IT

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Being Accused Of Being Unteachable, Obnoxious Online Social Network Disruptors And Correctors, They're Dissension Sowers Dividers And Arguers, Striving To Prove Everyone Else Wrong To Exalt Their Position, God Hates Sowers Of Discord, Puffed Up With Knowledge And Neither Understanding What They Teach, Doctrinal Correction Should Be Done In A Spirit Of Meekness, Apollos Aquila and Priscilla: Good Fruit Results From Proper Doctrinal Correction, Correctors And The "Unteachable" Card, A Ruse To Maintain Dominance, The Corrector Temper Tantrums Exposed, Be Persuaded In Your Own Mind And Stand Your Ground, In Extreme Cases Unfriend Disconnect Or Block, Arguing Is An Exercise In Futility, Live Peaceably, BBB Suggested Reading

This article addresses a topic which has been of some concern to me. I am referring to the subject of being "unteachable". More specifically, I am referring to the topic of Christians who accuse other Christians of being unteachable. If you have been a denizen of the social networks long enough, then you have probably already experienced this yourself at one time or another. At the very least, you have probably witnessed somebody else being accused of being unteachable. While this accusation may possibly hold true in some instances, it is NOT necessarily true in every single case. In fact, in some instances, the exact opposite holds true.

What do I mean by this? Well, sadly, there are certain proud, self-righteous, know-it-all Christians who I personally refer to as the "correctors". These obnoxious Christians have a bad habit of going around correcting their Christian brethren at every turn. These troublemakers are all disruptors, dividers, arguers and dissension sowers. They aren't really interested in engaging in a meaningful conversation with anyone. Neither do they talk TO their brethren in a humble manner as if they are interested in learning anything from them. They simply talk AT them. There is a rather big difference, my friends, so please take note of it.

In actuality, these condescending people simply want to prove the other person wrong, while at the same time exalting their own position, no matter the subject. That's their nature, and they often relish sowing dissension and discord amongst the brethren, contrary to the following Old Testament admonition. Please carefully notice in particular the last seven words in the following group of Bible verses. In fact, I have placed them in uppercase letters for emphasis:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, AND HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN."

Proverbs 6:16-19, KJV

The misguided, foolish attitude of these disruptors is that their beliefs, and their understanding of the Scriptures are always right, and if you don't agree with them, then you are simply dead wrong. End of story. There is no gray area with such high-minded people. They want it all their way. Sadly, such proud individuals seem to forget such Bible verses as the following ones which warn us about the dangers of being puffed up by a head full of knowledge, and not even really understanding what they presume to teach to others:

"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. KNOWLEDGE PUFFETH UP, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, HE KNOWETH NOTHING YET AS HE OUGHT TO KNOW."

1 Corinthians 8:1-2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: FROM SUCH WITHDRAW THYSELF."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in

which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [distort, twist or pervert], as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

"My brethren, be not many masters [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

James 3:1, KJV

"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:11-14, KJV

Now, to add a degree of balance to what I just stated, let me inform you that there are indeed times when a brother or a sister may misunderstand certain Scriptures, and could be a little off in their doctrines. When this happens to be the case, the Scriptures provide us with very clear instructions regarding how we should approach such a situation. One thing I can tell you is that it is NOT with a proud, know-it-all, haughty, condescending attitude as some of the correctors and disruptors like to do. Quite to the contrary, some of the Apostles -- such as Paul and James -- wrote that it is important to approach such people in a spirit of meekness, as we can easily determine by the following set of verses:

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works WITH MEEKNESS OF WISDOM."

James 3:13, KJV

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, IN MEEKNESS INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

2 Timothy 2:24-26, KJV

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, RESTORE SUCH AN ONE IN THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
Galatians 6:1, KJV

"What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and IN THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS?"
1 Corinthians 4:21, KJV

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, WITH ALL LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
Ephesians 4:1-3, KJV

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
James 5:19-20, KJV

So, my friends, as you can plainly see, whenever doctrinal correction does become necessary, and assuming that you feel called to do so -- be advised that it is precarious business when it comes to the social networks -- the previous verses clearly explain exactly how it should be done. In short, the real goal of any such correction should be to try to restore a brother or a sister to doctrinal clarity, and NOT to simply blow them out of the water by mercilessly blasting them with a pile of Bible verses in order to boast of your "superior" Scriptural knowledge. The Biblical approach is thus a rather far cry from the one that is taken on the social networks by the disruptors and the correctors.

Furthermore, when doctrinal correction is done properly, it will bear GOOD FRUIT for God's Kingdom, and not the negative fruit which often results when one encounters a corrector or a disruptor. A very good example of good fruit being brought forth from doctrinal correction is found in Acts 18. As you can see by the following group of Bible verses, there was a bold disciple by the name of Apollo who was preaching in the city of Ephesus. However, this man only knew the baptism of John. So upon hearing him, Aquila and Priscilla took the man aside and explained the Gospel of Christ to him. But notice what happened after that. Apollos became a bold witness for

Jesus Christ. Why? Because Aquila and Priscilla corrected him in a spirit of meekness and in love. They did NOT just blast the man.

"And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."

Acts 18:24-28, KJV

It is bad enough that whenever these correctors engage in conversations with other online Christians -- if we can even rightfully call it a conversation -- they'll put down those people who disagree with them. But tragically, it does not always end there. If other Christians continue to disagree with their position, it is at that point when the disruptors and correctors will decide to pull out their big guns, and accuse those other Christians of being unteachable. Beware!

My friends, let me be very clear about this tactic. This is simply a ruse which the corrector uses to maintain dominance over you. He hopes to put you on the defense, and make you look like the unyielded person who is refusing to accept the truth of the Scriptures. Who likes to be accused of being unteachable? Nobody, right? But what is really going on in this kind of situation? Let me explain it to you, at least as I personally understand it.

Basically, the corrector is throwing a temper tantrum. He is upset and angry because he is unable to force his point of view on you. He is so convinced that he is right, that he won't accept anything short of total surrender on your part. He expects you to believe by blind faith that whatever he is saying is absolutely true. When you fail to do that, after a little bit of back and forth, that is when he pulls out his "unteachable" card to try to embarrass you, and to force you to see things his way.

My friends, be smart! Don't bend to it or yield to his subtle trickery! If after a serious study of the Scriptures you have become convinced of something, then as I have said and taught on many previous occasions, hold your ground, regardless of the pressure that is applied by the corrector. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle that was addressed to the brethren who resided in Rome:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Romans 14:5, KJV

Whether it concerns the observance of Jewish holy days, or Jewish dietary laws, or any other facet, aspect or belief regarding our Christian faith, if you are fully persuaded in your mind concerning a certain thing, and are sure that your belief and position conforms to the Scriptures, then again I say to you, just hold your ground! Don't allow yourself to be bullied by the corrector! Now if said corrector continues to pressure you, harass you and bully you, then simply cut them off! Unfriend them, disconnect from them, or block them. Do whatever you feel is actually appropriate in your particular situation. There is no reason to continue taking abuse from such obnoxious people.

As I explain in my two-part article called "Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?", the bottom line -- at least in my view -- is that arguing with such "correctors" is simply not worth your time or your effort. Such doctrinal debates are really an exercise in futility, and rarely ever lead to a positive outcome. More often than not, they end with hurt and offended feelings, and each party marching off as if they won the verbal battle. Besides that, such doctrinal debates are totally contrary to the Scriptures. In conclusion, friends, I hope that this article helps and encourages some of you, and provides you with the advice you need to experience a more positive and peaceful online existence. Here is a final Bible verse for your consideration:

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Romans 12:18, KJV

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well.

If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Are You Deceived and Don't Even Know It?

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My Evolving Theology

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The Theologian War and Man Worship

The Wisdom of God Versus the Philosophy of Men

Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?

Understanding the Bible in Context

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