

OBSTACLES TO RESTORATION (Jeremiah 6:16)

I. Pride.

- A. We know this to be one of the three main avenues of temptation (1 John 2:15).
- B. Pride comes forth from an evil heart (Mark 7:21-23).
- C. It rears its head in various ways.
 - 1. Those who have attained high academic achievements can be prideful and look down on those less educated.
 - 2. Those who have always done things a certain way can begin to take pride that their way is the only way to do certain things.
 - 3. Sometimes those with less education resent those with more.
- D. Other ideas of pride may come to mind, but each of these lead to division and factions not restoration.
- E. Pride caused Satan to fall and it will us as well (1 Timothy 3:6).

II. Arrogance towards those outside of Christ.

- A. It is sad to think, but there are those Christians who look down on the lost because the lost don't have the understanding of scripture they have.
- B. These type people feel they are the only intellectually honest people and they lose their love for the lost.
- C. They believe that no one wants to hear the truth.
 - 1. This attitude causes people to be jaded in their thinking.
 - 2. They believe others have lost any sincerity in their thinking and that no one really wants to know God.
- D. When this attitude takes control, evangelism dies.
- E. Evangelism is the lifeblood of a congregation.
 - 1. When we begin to think no one wants to hear the gospel we turn inward.
 - 2. When we turn inward we die and there is no restoration.

III. A divisive attitude.

- A. Unity is something for which Jesus prayed (John 17) and we all should strive (Ephesians 4:3).
- B. Christians are to dwell together in unity and it is beautiful when such occurs (Psalm 133:1).
- C. However, there are those that simply have to have their way.
- D. Also, there are those who thrive on controversy.
 - 1. They love to have trouble going on around them.
 - 2. As one preacher said, they will fight at the drop of a hat and even drop the hat.
- E. The child of God is to live as peaceably as possible with all men (Romans 12:18).
- F. Division is sinful and whomever causes it is sinning.
- G. Restoration cannot take place in the lives of people if there is constant agitation and division occurring.

IV. Laziness.

- A. Restoration cannot take place where there is no knowledge of God.
- B. Christians who don't know God's word cannot bring it into the lives of those who don't know God.
- C. Preachers who don't study and bring what they don't know into the pulpit hinder restoration.
 - 1. Issues come up and one must study what the Bible says about an issue to be able to properly discuss it.
 - 2. If there is no study, then there can't be a proper dealing with issues that arise.
- D. When sincere Christians are not being fed and go away bored the congregation will be left with only those who really don't care and restoration can't take place with people like that.

V. No thought for past history.

- A. You might say we don't live in the past and you would be right.
- B. However, Solomon long ago said there was no new thing under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).
- C. Christians of the past went through the same problems we face today.
 - 1. The Restoration Movement began as a call to come out of denominationalism and back to God's word.
 - 2. This is what restoration today is as well.
- D. If we are not aware of the past history of God's people then we will make the same mistakes they made.
 - 1. Many of our brotherhood came out of denominationalism and preached the truth but got swept away in error.
 - 2. This happens today because we don't know what happened in the past and we fall in line with our predecessors.
- E. History repeats itself and we fall prey because we don't know our own history as a people of God.

VI. Being satisfied with the status quo.

- A. There are those who are simply happy with what we have and become caretakers instead of evangelists.
- B. They focus so much on inward things that there no outward actions for the lost.
- C. As long as there are people being born there will be a need for restoration teaching (Matthew 28:19-20).
- D. As long as there are people falling away there will be a need for restoration teaching (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- E. As long as there are good works to be done there will be a need for restoration teaching (Titus 2:14).
- F. We can't be satisfied and go along to get along.
 - 1. We need to teach the lost and the erring.
 - 2. We need to examine self and strive to grow.

VII. An attitude of compromise.

- A. We are at war whether we like it or not (1 Peter 5:8).
 - 1. We are called to be soldiers of Christ and must put on the whole armor of God.

2. Soldiers don't compromise with the enemy: that is called defeat.
- B. Sadly, there are many in our brotherhood who, instead of restoring New Testament Christianity, agree to disagree with those in error and fail to oppose that error.
 - C. Willingness to compromise on issues of doctrinal matters leads to a destruction of the restoration movement, not a growth in it.
 - D. To compromise with Satan is to die spiritually.

From an article by John Waddey