

From: Scott Parker [<mailto:thenarrowway@ma.rr.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 5:33 PM
To: 'Martinez, Richard'
Subject: RE: goodbye?

Rich,

Thank you for your lengthy letter. I am going to reply with statements in red. I mean no statement in a mean way.

Scott

From: Martinez, Richard [mailto:Richard_Martinez@cable.comcast.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 4:03 PM
To: Scott Parker
Subject: RE: goodbye?

Scott,

Here is where I stand **{so you have closed your mind to study?}** on this issue. I have done every one of the studies that you have given me. While doing each study I have kept an open heart and mind **{Do you still have these since you have come to your stand – just asking}**. I just want to get to the truth of the matter; you know how Kerri and I are **{yes, very well}**. While doing your studies I am seeing a lot of holes in the thought process. Here are some of the examples that I can think of.

If you want to go by what is outlined in the bible **{you mean the New Testament, right?}** on how we are to worship God and conduct ourselves. Then we should not be meeting in buildings that are paid by the church **{if this is what you believe are you sinning then each time you go to the EA building – your logic or your conscience must go}**. Throughout the New Testament there was never a public building **{where were they worshipping in Acts 2:46? Was the Temple the house of an individual Christian? No way}**; people meet in houses of fellow Christians. There are no instructions on how much money to set aside for a public worship assembly.

I have not read that the apostles or preachers used microphones, or stood in the pulpit while preaching **{Both of these examples you give scripturally fall into the realm of expedients for the authorized work of the church – is eating and easter egg hunts, etc. an authorized work of the church? That is the real issue. If you were not closed minded now – I could teach you the difference between aides and additions, but you will not likely hear it presently}**.

On the issue of benevolence, you stated that only saints should be helped from the church's treasury **{that is what every Bible passage on the subject of church benevolence says, I did not make it up}**. The act of helping a non-saint from the collective unit is a SIN **{is it a sin to go beyond what is written, yes? 1 Cor. 4:6}**. You gave the example of the widow that has to meet all of these criteria to receive help from the church as a whole. But where are the examples of the hundreds of different scenarios that could happen **{so the silence of the scriptures authorize?}**. What if a man and women wanted to receive help from the church that were both saints, because the man was in an accident and lost a limb and no longer could support his family? I don't see that anywhere, do you? **{I am not sure what you are getting at here. A widow has to meet the qualifications to be placed on the list for full time support by the church, and younger widows are not to be on that list, that is what the scriptures teach – 'what if' scenarios not withstanding - this sounds so very much like a Baptist saying "What if Joe Bob gets in a car wreck on the way to the baptistery, is he going to go to hell?" – We must learn not to go beyond what is written – again, 1 Cor. 4:6}**

I have read that adultery is a sin, stealing is a sin, lust is a sin, lying is a sign. But I do not see the passage where it states that "To give money from the collective saints' treasury to a non-saint is a SIN". **{Does it say that to sniff cocaine is a sin? Does it say that gambling is a sin? Does it say that the modern dance is a sin? Does it say that abortion is a sin? Does it say that to have female elders is a sin? Where are those EXACT WORDS? Rich, this is the very worst way to approach the scripture, can you imagine how big the book would be if it told us everything that we cannot do? The point is that through commands, examples, and logical deductions God has made it plain what his will is}**.

Do you see where I am going with this? **{Not trying to be smart at all, but do you see where your reasoning and**

approach fails miserably?} In my opinion **{this is the whole problem}** benevolence is evangelism. **{and what passage do you use to support this?}**

If you want to agree to disagree that is fine **{over doctrine God's Word will not allow for this – 2 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 1:10, et al}**. If you believe that these actions are sinful, then that is fine. I am not good at the bible verses but in Romans it talks about taking meat if it was offered to a idol, and if you have a problem with it then it is a SIN, and if you don't, then don't worry. Same idea applies here **{no it does not as Romans 14 is not talking about matters of doctrine, but rather scruples over matters that are lawful. I could easily show you this if you were not closed to study, where does the approach you take with Romans 14 end? You have opened Pandora's Box}**, if you **{I am not the authority}** want to make those actions sinful because of the way you feel **{my feelings are not the authority – Proverbs 14:12}**, then that is Kosher, but don't condemn **{scripture condemns}** other brothers in Christ to hell because of your opinion **{when have I EVER said to you I THINK, or I FEEL, or THIS IS MY OPINION, all I have done is given you scripture}**. I do know that causing division in the Church is a sin and I think **{Isa. 55:8-9}** that you have crossed the line in that respect **{I respect you for saying so, but Rich what you do not understand is that EA and the other innovative congregations are the ones who have caused the division – the digression from the NT pattern. I ask you who troubles Israel – see 1 Kings 18:17-18? Was Paul causing division in Corinth when he told them to stop their social meals – cf. 1 Cor. 11:19ff}**.

I am sorry if I came off hard or jerkish **{You did not, I respect your forward approach}**. But I do love you Scott, you and Tricia are both wonderful people **{We feel the same about you guys}**, if it was not for you Kerri and I would probably be at some denomination with laser shows and a skate park in the back of the building. Thank you for saving my soul **{Thanks for the nice words, and I appreciate you as well. I was glad to help you see the truth of the gospel... I wish that I could help you see the error of your ways now... Rich, please do some serious study on these things no matter how long it takes... not just 2 simple studies... it took us a long time to fully embrace all the aspects of the truth we were missing... if you do not, I fear you will stay where you are spiritually – on these issues – and your soul will be lost eternally... It is already now in jeopardy... you may not want to hear this, but it is true – Gal. 4:16 }**, I do know if I have ever said that, but thank you **{No prob}**.

With love,

Rich