

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

LET’S GET SOME THINGS STRAIGHT HERE AND NOW

It is no secret that I have some enemies who call themselves Christians. On different occasions, said enemies have slandered and misrepresented me. Well, in case this article falls into any of my enemies’ hands, or into the hands of their cronies, I wish to set some things straight here and now.

Some say I teach it is sinful to eat in a church building. Not so! If such were the case, I would be sinning each week as I ate the Lord’s Supper. I do, however, teach it is sinful to have church funded or church sponsored meals in a church building since there is no authority for such (**Colossians 3:17**).

Some say I have a personal vendetta against the Guardian of Truth boys. Not true! I hardly know any of them. I do, however, oppose any human institution doing the work of a local church since there is no authority for such (**Colossians 3:17**).

Some say I am against evening communion. Wrong! I don’t care when a congregation partakes of the Lord’s Supper so long as they properly partake together. I am opposed to having “Make-Up Suppers” wherein a few members partake while other members don’t since there is no authority for such (**Colossians 3:17**).

Some say I am just a “crank.” Hardly! Those who know me know I love to have fun. Yet, I am opposed to wooing people into “obedience” via fun and games since there is no authority for such (**Colossians 3:17**).

Some say that I am against helping non-Christians out with material goods. Nonsense! I help those outside of Christ according to my ability. I am, however, opposed to the local church helping non-Christians from their collected funds since there is no authority for such (**Colossians 3:17**).

Some say that I seek to break up families. Not true! I am opposed, however, to any marriage which is not scriptural since there is no authority for such (**Colossians 3:17**).

I have heard that I hate orphans. Not true! I have heard that I am a binder. Not true! On and on I could go.

Character assassination attempts used to bother me, but not any longer, for I now realize that when people take aim at me, I’m in good company. While upon the earth, Jesus was subject to slander time and again. For instance, on one occasion the Pharisees said of Him: “...**This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils**” (**Matthew 12:24**). Yes, Jesus was misrepresented. Jesus was slandered.

Our Lord promised the same for true disciples. He plainly said: “**Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake**” (**Luke 6:22**).

Listen, I know of no one faithfully handling God’s Word who doesn’t have a host of people happy to slander him/her every chance they get. For instance, I know a genuine gospel preacher in Texas who many think is the devil incarnate. If such enemies of the cross would open their ears to the truth, I’m sure they would feel differently. Moreover, I know some people in our congregation who won’t be winning any popularity contests anytime soon, but the Lord is pleased with their stand for truth. Again, I have been slandered and misrepresented nearly the entire time I have been preaching. When you dare to care that is just the way it is. Folks, let’s not get “down in the mouth” over the fiery darts that people shoot at us. Instead, let’s consider the source and count such as a badge of honor. Let’s rejoice when people speak poorly of us for standing up for the Lord’s way.

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you for so did their fathers to the false prophets (Luke 6:26).