

If You've Never Been Called A Fanatic By Bill Hall

Webster defines the word "fanatic": "A person affected by excessive enthusiasm." Its definition indicates that it is a relative term, dependent upon one's judgment as to what is a proper degree of enthusiasm in contrast with what is excessive enthusiasm. Anyone who has any knowledge at all of the world and its standards knows that to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," (Matt. 6:33) and to "love the Lord with all one's heart, soul, and mind," (Matt. 22:37) and to "present one's body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (Rom. 12:1) is to be in the eyes of the world a fanatic.

Nevertheless, before becoming too concerned, one should realize that every Bible character whom he admires— Paul, Peter, John the Baptist, Eunice, Hannah, Jesus—would be looked upon by the world as a fanatic were he or she living today. On the other hand, the world would smile approvingly on those of whom the Lord said: "So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16).

If you've never been called a fanatic, you might need to reconsider your spiritual condition before God.

Remember Those Who Are Sick: Jim Wetzstein, Kenny Cauley, Francis Mansfield, Starr Wilkins, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert.

Remember in your prayers: Houston Perry is returning home this week for a period of time. Patrick and Cindy have gone to NC to meet him as he returns. Mary Serilli is overseas in Afganistan until December.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place
Stamp
Here

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

**VISITORS ARE
WELCOME!**

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

Navarre Messenger

"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1

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THE PRICE OF FEAR



Thought To Ponder

"Worry is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged it cuts a channel into which all other thought are drained."

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Jim Bell
Evangelist & Editor

The "fearful" will go to Hell. In Rev. 21:8 they are classed with the unbelieving, the abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars; an unsavory company. Have you stopped to think why this is so? Your soul may be at stake!!

There are "fears" which are necessary in the Christian life -- such as: deep, abiding respect for God; (Heb.12:28) "be not highminded, but fear;" (Rom.11:20) and "fear" lest Christians will stray from Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3) Such "fears" are in keeping with a strong faith in God.

But there are fears that spring from doubt; (Matt. 14:25-32) which manifest themselves in many ways. When God sent Israel forth to war He rejected the "fearful" "lest his brethren's heart melt as his heart." (Deut. 20:8) God wants people who put trust in Him; not in physical strength or numbers. (Judg 7:3)

Those who "fear the people" and "love the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42-43) are of little value to the Lord.

Anxieties cripple our usefulness, and prevent our putting His kingdom FIRST in our lives. (Luke 12: 22-34) If we "fear" to ask, we will not learn; (Luke 9:45) and if we "fear" to act, we become "unprofitable." (Matt. 25: 25-ff)

"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt. 10:28) This is part of Christ's instructions to the twelve, sent to proclaim truth in a hostile world. In later years Jesus spoke to Paul in a vision, "Be not afraid, but speak....For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city." (Acts 18: 9-10)

Today the Lord's cause needs men of courage -- men unafraid to SPEAK -- men more concerned for their soul and the lost souls about them, than for self. Soft preachers are not money hungry. In these days an educated man can make a good living at something else. But they are cowards!! and this lack of faith in God will send them to hell with the rest of the fearful. — Robert Turner

Check us out on the internet: www.navarrechurchofchrist.net

“CHURCH GROWTH: From Decline To Growth” LOVE NEEDED

How does God hear our “music”?

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy; and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing” (1 Cor. 13:1-3). It seems hardly conceivable perhaps to most of us that someone could make these ultimate efforts and sacrifices for Christ and do it without love. Yet, Paul is not proclaiming empty rhetoric.

He is showing us that love must be the motivating principle behind all our worship and work for God.

To seek to build a church without love is to become “a noisy gong” rather than an instrument making beautiful music for God.

Love is the glue that holds it all together.

Paul urged the Colossians, “Put on love which is the perfect bond of unity!” (Col. 3:14). Successful church work may involve many important actions (which I have tried to describe in these articles), but all of them are made effective and welded together into a unified whole by our love.

All of us must love God.

That ought to be easy if we truly comprehend the great sacrifice God has made for us through Christ (Jn. 3:16). Indeed, “we love because He first loved us”. It is love for God that stirs us to obey Him (1 Jn. 5:3) and serve one another (Gal. 5:13). When we love God with all our heart, we will not cease to evangelize because we know this is what He wants us to do and commands of us (Mt. 28:18-20).

Leaders must really love their people.

People will not follow someone who only pretends to be interested in them or seems to operate from self-serving motives. Manipulation is moving people for the leader’s advantage. Motivation is moving people for everyone’s advantage! When leaders really love their people, like Jesus loved His disciples “to the end” (Jn. 13:1), they will offer themselves to the work of the Lord willingly and enthusiastically.

All disciples must love one another.

As disciples reach out to each other, praying for one another, affirming one another, protecting one another, and helping one another, a team mindset develops that enables them to enjoy being together and working together. But more importantly, this love is easily seen by those who come among us and its existence proves to them that we are truly the disciples of Jesus

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

All disciples must also love the lost.

God’s church shows their love for the lost by showing them the way, by teaching them the truth. All of the helpful things we may do for others may provide temporal benefit to people and may open the door for evangelism. But the greatest act of love we can manifest toward our friends, family, and neighbors is to invite them to hear the gospel or personally teach them the truth (Mt. 16:26).

A challenge for all of us!

No successful work of God can take place outside a context of relational integrity. Can everyone see love working in us?

— Johnny Felker



LEGALISM OR GRACE?

Accusations of "legalism" still can be heard from enemy quarters much like desperate, sporadic, scud missiles, launched blindly into the night. Some think that they have discovered some "new, profound truth," but the accusation is as old as Augustine. Proponents of salvation by grace alone have long taken issue with the Bible's teaching that man must **DO SOMETHING** in order to receive God's mercy. In their way of thinking, one must either believe in justification by legalism or justification by grace alone - that is an improper "either-or" proposition

There is a certain inconsistency on the part of those who once embraced the faith but now accuse us of being "legalists" and "believing in justification by law." However, they seem unaware of that incongruity, perhaps, because they are unconscious of the inevitable conclusion to the position they are espousing. When they misuse Paul's statement that "we are not under law but under grace," (Romans 6:14) to make it mean that man is not responsible to obey law, because he is under what is supposed to be God's unconditional, all-embracing grace, they draw a series of wrong conclusions which constitute false doctrine. Their false teaching aligns itself against many passages that teach that saving faith is always an obedient faith (Hebrews 5:8-9; Philippians 2:12).

Here is the inconsistency of the accusers who espouse that Calvinistic position. They accept, at least for the moment, that there are commands with which the **LOST SINNER** must comply in order to have God's saving grace. But they do not seem to understand that Calvin's system of theology demands that any obedience by man annuls grace. According to Calvin, grace is given by God unconditionally and if it is conditional it is not grace.

Now, these deluded souls who have embraced this false doctrine want **CHRISTIANS** to be free from obedience to God's commands. They think that a

Christian's eternal salvation must be without obedience to commands, because, to them, obedience to any commands is a system of justification by law - or, in other words, "legalism." But, on the other hand, they still want to believe, at least temporarily, that God's grace for the non-Christian is conditional and the lost sinner must obey commands to believe, repent, confess and be baptized to be saved from sin (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Peter 3:21).

I predict that they will accept the logical consequences of their false concepts about "grace," swallow Calvin's theology of justification by grace alone and accept the inevitable but false conclusion that lost mankind can do nothing in order to receive God's grace. Consistency demands it - passing of time will produce it.

— Jim Everett (via Plain Talk)

“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” (James 2:20-24)

