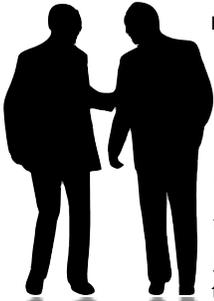


The Difference Between “The Church” And “The Movement”

Human Reasoning

Reasoning is the power of the mind to think and make judgments by the process of logic. Our “Movement” was founded on the faulty foundation of human reasoning from day one. Local churches are founded on the Word of God.



On several occasions in the Scriptures, we find examples of those who “reasoned among themselves.” They were trying to understand and make judgments by the process of logic, and their human reasoning was always faulty.

Reasoning Among Themselves

Matthew 16:7, “...they reasoned among themselves.”

Matthew 21:25, “...they reasoned with themselves.”

Mark 2:8, “they so reasoned within themselves.”

Mark 8:16, “they reasoned among themselves.”

Mark 11:31, “they reasoned with themselves.”

Luke 20:5, “...they reasoned with themselves...”

Luke 20:14, “they reasoned among themselves.”

Luke 9:46, “there arose a reasoning among them.”



The only safe way to reason about Scriptural things is to follow the example of Paul who reasoned with his listeners, “...out of the Scriptures” (Acts 17:2).

We Reasoned Among Ourselves That We Needed A Movement

In the early 1900s, liberalism and modernism were coming in like a flood. Concerned Christian leaders *reasoned together* concerning how to combat the problem. We concluded if we were going to battle liberalism, modernism, communism, socialism, and all the other isms we would need to have an ism of our own. We called it “*fundamentalism*.” The outcome of our reasoning was a series of articles known as, “The Fundamentals.”

The preface to *The Fundamentals*, written by R.A. Torrey reads,

“The oversight of the selection of articles to be included in *The Fundamentals* was given to a special committee of **men who were known to be sound in the faith**” (Emphasis mine).

Reasoning That Bigger Is Better

Our “...special committee,” armed with the logical humanistic reasoning that “*bigger is better*” decided to bypass God’s plan for local churches and formed a “special committee” of Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists (very few Baptists) and other denominations. Some sprinkled babies and called it baptism.

Our “special committee” included C. I. Scofield, who was divorced in 1883, remarried three months later, and was ordained as the pastor in a Congregational church the same year. Our “special committee” who according to R. A. Torrey were all “sound in the faith,” obviously ignored the fact that three times in the Word of God we are told that a divorced man is disqualified from being a pastor. Scofield was one of their *friends* and he had a lot of *influence*. Is that why these founders of “*fundamentalism*” ignored the Scriptures?

In our fourteen point creed otherwise known as the “Niagara Creed,” point ten of their creed included “...we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry.”

**Rising above all
sectarian prejudices
and denominational
bigotry???**



Baptism Became A Denominational Bigotry

Nothing is mentioned in our creed promoting the local church or baptism, as these two important Bible doctrines could not be a part of our new para-church movement if we were going “to keep the unity.” For the first time in two thousand years, God’s pastors and God’s local churches were pushed aside and our new “movement” became the spearhead of what we called “fundamentalism.”

Dumping Truth For Unity

The goal was, “to keep the unity.” Anyone who would suggest anything contrary to our creed would be guilty of, “sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry.”

Sectarian, “religious beliefs typically regarded as heretical.”

Prejudice, “Opinion not based on reason.”

Bigot, “Intolerant toward those who hold different opinions.”

Prejudices And Bigotry?

For the sake of unity, R. A. Torrey, A. C. Dixon, W. B. Riley, Lewis Sperry Shafer, C. I. Scofield and other “fundamentalists” agreed to reduced the major Bible doctrines concerning the local church and baptism to a “different opinion.”

For the sake of unity, we approved a creed that determined that those who were true to the doctrine of baptism by immersion were promoting “bigotry.” We sacrificed Bible doctrine for the sake of unity with baby baptizers and had the gall to call it “fundamentalism.”

Our special committee compiled the works of many writers and issued them in twelve volumes. These twelve volumes were later printed in a four- volume set. They sent what they considered to be “The Fundamentals” of the Word of God to about 300,000 ministers, missionaries and other workers in different parts of the world.

The fact that, our “special committee” included a group of leaders with many different doctrinal beliefs, indicates their reasoning was humanistic rather than Scriptural. Had they reasoned together using the Word of God as their foundation, they never would have compromised to form a group of men with many different opinions concerning Bible doctrine.

The fact is, if they had checked the Scriptures they never would have bypassed God’s pastors and God’s local churches in forming a “special committee” in the first place. They thought they needed a big organization with some big named people so they set aside Bible truth to accomplish their goal.

The Committee And The “Universal Church” Virus

One of the contributors on our special committee was Anglican Bishop John Charles Ryle. He wrote an article in The Fundamentals concerning what he called the “True Church” (Referring to the so-called universal church).

He supported his position with absolutely no Scripture. What else could he do? No Scripture can be found to support his position.

The “universal church” virus was one of the foundational blocks for what we call fundamentalism. Ryle began his discussion with the question “Do you belong to the one true Church?” Ryle’s question plainly suggests that your local church is not the “true church.” Referring to their committee Ryle also said, “Its members are entirely agreed on all the weightier matters of religion, for they are all taught by one Spirit.”

Agreed On The Weightier Matters???

If the truth be told, Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Baptists were not “of one mind” concerning baptism; however, the truth could not be told if they were going to keep the unity of the group. Keeping the unity of the group was more important to R. A. Torrey, A.C. Dixon, W. B. Riley, Lewis Sperry Shafer, and C. I. Scofield, than defending the important doctrines of baptism, and the local church, and these compromisers called it fundamentalism.

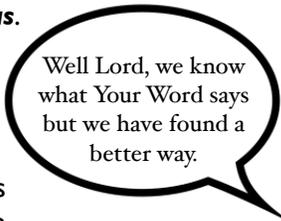


Baptism is one-third of the command of Christ in Matthew 28:19; however, nothing is written in all of their twelve volumes about baptism and for the sake of unity our compromising, “*fundamentalists*” remained silent about it.

We Found A Better Way

The new movement presented an open door to scores of para-church ministries. Colleges, newspapers, magazines, and **the movement became the new focus.**

Local churches were reduced in value as the *movement* took the preeminence. The God-given title of pastor was far less impressive than president, professor, administrator, director, editor, and such like.



Any ministry that is organized outside of the local church is not part of a church, it is *part of a movement*. God has not given any instructions concerning how movements are to operate so everyone was free to “...do that which was right in his own eyes.”

We Should Have Learned From Israel’s Mistake

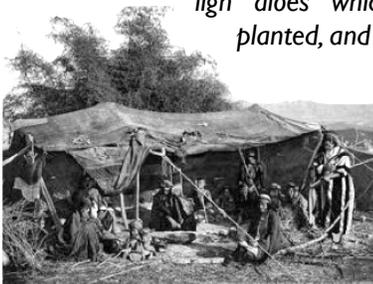
God’s plan for Israel was Tribes.

Numbers 30:1

“Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes...saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded.”

Numbers 24:5,6

“How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river’s side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.”



Psalm 78:55

“He...made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.”

The Priests And The Parents

God’s plan for Israel was very plain and it was very simple. Israel was divided into twelve tribes. God had ordained priests to teach, and in turn parents were to lead their families in the way of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

“And these words, I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”

The word tribe and tribes is in the Bible over 350 times. It was God’s plan for Israel. It was God’s purpose to show Himself powerful through His tribes.

First Corinthians 1:27-29

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen...That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

They Wanted To Fight Their Battles “Like All The Nations”

First Samuel 8:20

“That we also may be **like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**”

God did not need His people to take things into their own hands and fight their battles like, “*all the nations.*” When God’s people trust God, He takes care of His people. Israel should have trusted God in Samuel’s day and then claimed the promise, “I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:9).

Samuel pleaded with the people to keep doing things God’s way; however, we read, “Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us” (First Samuel 8:19). Israel did not like God’s plan and refused to stay with it.

The Plan Looked Good At The Beginning

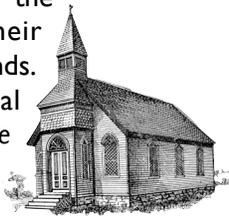
Israel's first King was King Saul. His principle focus was to conduct a confrontation against the Philistines. Israel's new organization appeared to be a much better plan than a group of seemingly insignificant tribes without a central leader.

Israel's second King was King David. It looked great at the beginning; however, following King Saul, King David, and King Solomon, God's Word declares that about eighty percent of Israel's kings did "evil in the sight of the LORD."

When we reject God's way we pay dearly for our rebellion. God is not mocked! Judges 13:1 says, "The LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years." Soon we find God's people in total bondage in Babylon and Assyria.

God's Plan For Our Age Is Also Plain And Simple

For Israel it was priests teaching the people and parents training their families to do what God commands. God's plan for our day is local churches. Acts 15:5 says, "And so were the churches established." God gave pastors who are to teach "faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (Second Timothy 2:2). Ephesians 4:11,12 says, "And he gave...pastors and teachers...For the perfecting of the saints."



The plan was plain and it was simple. God wanted pastors teaching the Word of God and parents teaching their children to follow God's Word. Ephesians 6:4 says, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

First Samuel 8:4 says, "The elders gathered themselves together" and decided they wanted to do it like the world did it.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, preachers "gathered themselves together" because they were concerned about the advancement of modernism and liberalism.

They decided something needed to be done to combat our Philistines. They decided we needed a "movement" to stand against modernism and liberalism. We called it "fundamentalism."

Preachers decided God's local churches, scattered everywhere, could not handle the threat. Like Israel, we forsook God's way and went the way of the world.

The World Has Colleges

We organized colleges

The influence of pastors faded and the influence of presidents took control. Soon the phrase, "As goes the colleges, so goes the churches" became an unscriptural fact.

The World Gives Doctors Degrees

We give Doctors Degrees

The World Has Newspapers

We started newspapers

The World Has Magazines

We published magazines

The World Has Seminars

We organized seminars

The World Has Associations

Baptists alone have over 300 different associations

The World Has a Board of Directors

Our para-church ministries have their Board of Directors

God's plan for our age is "elders (pastors) in every city" (Titus 1:5). Now, editors have more influence than most pastors. Scores of ministries, with no Scriptural foundation are still springing up around the world. There are now thousands of "fundamental" para-church ministries on the internet "doing that which is right in their own eyes."

To add to our fundamental confusion, in the last fifty years, new issues have come to the forefront with many "fundamentalists" taking a different stand concerning these issues, or taking no stand at all.

A partial list includes such important issues as, Bible translations, music standards, dress standards, Calvinism, Lordship salvation, repentance and separation.

While many fundamentalists continue taking many different positions on these issues, it becomes obvious that the word fundamental means many different things to many people. The term now raises more questions than it answers.

I have been a Christian for fifty-eight years. I have seen fundamental groups come and I have seen them go. I have watched different groups of fundamentalists form their own “*core of beliefs concerning what they thought was important.*”

I have watched fundamentalists change their position on such issues as the King James Bible, music standards, dress standards, separation, repentance and other issues. These things were, and are, being set aside for “*new modern ideas*” of fundamentalism.

I remember when The World Congress of Fundamentalists met in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1976. In the resolutions under, “**We Believe**” they said,

“A fundamentalist maintains an immovable allegiance to the inerrant, infallible, and verbally inspired Bible. A fundamentalist believes that whatever the Bible says is so. A fundamentalist judges all things by the Bible and is judged by the Bible and is judged only by the Bible.”

Would not Pentecostal churches, Brethren churches, Calvinists, Jack VanImpe, and most TV evangelists say that is what they believe?

They said,

“A fundamentalist maintains an immovable allegiance to the inerrant, infallible, and verbally inspired Bible.” What Bible? Today, there are many people running under the banner of fundamentalism using different translations of the Word of God.

They said,

“A fundamentalist believes that whatever the Bible says is so.”

Wouldn't every Christian denomination say they believe that?

They said,

“A fundamentalist judges all things by the Bible and is judged by the Bible and is judged only by the Bible.”

If all fundamentalists “*judge all things by the Bible*” how is it we have fundamental leaders leading people in so many different directions?

It is wrong to judge the motives of the founders of fundamentalism; however, the Bible is very plain about methods. The fact remains that we never needed to join the worlds' list of “isms.” All we had to do was stay with God's program like we did for nearly 2000 years. “*...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*” (First Timothy 3:15).

There is a difference between the movement and the local church. **Don't let the compromisers in the movement lead your church into the apostasy of our day.**

To the pastor of the local, church the Lord said...

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”

Revelation 3:2