



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

invaindotheyworshipme.com

Loving Those Coercive Bullies

Tonight there are three things on my mind and it's a hard decision which I should talk about. One of those items is the topic of bullying, another is coercion and the third is the subject of my last "noggin notion."

Perhaps I should start with the last item. The last article that I posted was titled, "Who Will Rescue the Rescuers?" Somebody sent me a message about that article and made a statement that let me know he thought I was attacking a specific person.

My answer to that is an emphatic "NO!" In fact in the middle of that document I stated that we shouldn't be personally attacking our pastors. Let me quote that for you:

But should we in any way attack the pastor as a person? No. All pastors are children of God and God loves them unconditionally. But should we warn our family, friends, and acquaintances that the pastor is teaching falsehoods? I believe we should. And lest any of you want to point the finger at me then let me lead you in doing so. I admit that I have been guilty of causing trouble for pastors. I made the mistake of confusing the pastors actions and teachings with the pastor as a person. And that was wrong. And for all the pastors that I have done that to you have my sincere apology. I know that I was wrong and I am able to love you as a person. However, I do not support your actions or messages that are contrary to the truth about God and his Character.

It was never my intention that my previous article be construed in any way as an

attack on any particular person. It was meant to be a warning to all, including pastors, that we need to be cautious of what we are being fed as gospel. Pastors are included in this warning because they are just as human as the rest of us and that makes them also vulnerable to falsehoods that have been presented as truth. Perhaps they are even more vulnerable because they have studied theology as taught by the schools of religion that are run by erring humans that have also been taught falsehoods. In other words, they have been trained to believe and present the devil's doctrines.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.
– Matthew 23:15

In the church I grew up in, I was taught that only those who were members of that particular church would be admitted into heaven. In later years that teaching was qualified to mean that of those who are still alive when Jesus returns to get his people, only those who are Adventists will be allowed into heaven. So, by that teaching if you are planning to go to heaven and also to live until Jesus returns, then you are required to join the Adventist church and if you don't then tough luck, you're toast.

My warning was to all of us, pastors included, to pay attention to what we are being taught. We need to stop parking our brains at the doors or anywhere else and start thinking for ourselves. We need to examine the evidence, reason out what is being taught, and know for a fact that it is truth.

Believing a falsehood may not get you to heaven. We may be in Chicago and planning to drive to New York and in all sincerity point our cars west and start following the sunset truly believing that we will reach New York. We have the right to believe that. God grants us the privilege of thinking and reasoning things out for ourselves. But it's so important that we are believing the truth and not the falsehoods. And the fact is that if we start from Chicago and drive west we will never reach New York unless we are able to drive on the ocean.

So maybe I should list just a few of the teachings or doctrines that are fed to us and many, many people are believing. Yet these doctrines are false. They don't present a loving picture of God. Here's a list and I'll start with the two items I just mentioned.

- ★ Only Seventh-day Adventists will be taken to heaven without seeing death
- ★ It is a sin to question the pastor/church

- ★ Prosperity gospel
- ★ Puritan work ethic
- ★ Immortality of the human soul
- ★ Eternally burning hell
- ★ Burning in hell only as long as is necessary to atone for our sins
- ★ The rapture
- ★ Once saved always saved
- ★ Predestination
- ★ Male headship
- ★ Penal substitution
- ★ Tithing
- ★ Church authority
- ★ Confession of sin to another human so God will be willing to forgive
- ★ The sanctuary message
- ★ Earning your way to heaven by your works/good deeds/diet
- ★ God doesn't hear the prayers of the sinner
- ★ Dogs won't be allowed in heaven
- ★ God's justice

I could continue that list but won't. It's enough to give you an idea what we're up against. And don't be too hard on your pastors who are teaching you this. Like I just said, they have also been taught this stuff and many believe that it's true. God loves them just as much as he loves the rest of us and they need our prayers just as much as we need their prayers.

One of the other things on my mind is bullying. I'm thinking about this because it reached out and slapped me this afternoon. I had noticed once before in the past that my son has a Facebook friend that I knew at some point earlier in my life.

I want to tell you a bit about this person but I need to protect their identity. To do that I'll make up a word that indicates a neuter gender. So when you see the word "whe" then know that it is indicating either she or he, the word "whet" is indicating the word him or her, and the word "whets" indicates his or hers. It will take a bit of getting used to but you should catch on.

This person came to my attention because whe commented to congratulate Samuel when he got married. Today I noticed that whe had commented again when Samuel announced that he had accepted a job in another state.

When I saw this person was somehow a part of my son's life it bothered me. In fact, I allowed it to depress me. In the past this person had been a bully and I

had been whet victim. The damage she had inflicted was such that my mind has blocked it from my memory. I can remember that the abuse occurred repeatedly over the four month period she was a part of my life. I thought it was all behind me and I would never have to face whet abuse again but last February and again this afternoon it jumped right out and bit me right on the nose and bent it out of shape.

How long ago was it that I knew she? If I told that then it might pinpoint who this bully is so I won't give that information. But I will tell you how I handled it. First I recognized that I had allowed whet to step in and take control of my emotions by becoming depressed. I felt anger that my son was on friendly terms with whet. And I have to admit, I felt anger that this person, this bully from my past, was even alive. By responding in this way when only seeing whets picture and name, I had allowed whet to abuse me all over again.

When I was able to recognize that I was depressed, angry, still hurting, and that I had allowed this person to have control, my thoughts turned to God and the idea that I needed to forgive. Apparently just forgetting something isn't forgiving, it's simply stuffing it away in a box then losing the box in hopes that you'll never have to face it again. But if the hurt is simply tucked away then it isn't dealt with and can come back and have a good laugh at you, causing you to experience the pain all over again.

So I needed to deal with this. My next thought was to ask myself when was the last time I had eaten. I'm bad about forgetting to eat. I had eaten 2 egg burritos at about 2:30 a.m. and here it was just after noon. That is long enough to cause a depression so even though I wasn't hungry I ate some leftover pizza I found in the refrigerator. That should have helped and it would have if the depression had been caused by the lack of food. But this depression was caused by having to face a painful memory.

I called my sister-in-law and asked to cancel the Bible study that night. My head hurt, I was depressed, didn't feel well and my house showed it. I hadn't slept well at all during week and needed to get some shut-eye. Elkanah called sometime after 2 and I told him I was going to go get a nap. I probably slept about 2 hours, maybe a bit more, and when I woke I had the makings of a migraine.

Feeling thirsty I went and grabbed a 7up out of the fridge then went in search of Elkanah. We sat and talked about this person and I told him what I could remember of my experience with whet which was essentially nothing. All I can remember is that the experience was so painful that I know it happened but I

don't remember exactly what happened.

I told Elkanah how I knew this person and how I had become whet target. I also told him that I'm sitting here how many years later and trying to place myself in whets shoes and wonder about whet. Whe sees me comment on Samuel's Facebook wall and knows by that that I am his mother.

So I sat there talking to Elkanah and wondering how this person feels when whe sees me posting and knowing that Samuel is my son. What does whe feel about how whe acted toward me in the past. Does whe even remember? How does whe deal with it?

Elkanah suggested that it may not bother whet at all. Since whets behavior was so bad that I'm not able to recall what happened but I can sit there with tears in my eyes as I talk about it, then whe may have at some point recognized that whet actions were inappropriate and also blocked the memory. Or, it's possible that whe is still the same in character as back then and doesn't recognize or even care that whets behavior was inappropriate. If that's the case then whe needs to open whets eyes and recognize that whe was at one time anyway, nothing more than a bully. It's also possible that whe recognized whets character defect and has allowed the Holy Spirit to remove it from whet thereby finding peace with whets past actions.

Until I am able to forgive this person the hurt will remain. It may be stuffed away and forgotten again, but at some point it will get pulled out once more and I will have to deal with it so I choose to deal with now. I want to heal. I recognize that I didn't do anything to this person to cause whet to behave in the way whe did and that whets behavior is in no way my fault. I was victimized by this bully's best friend who hated me because I wasn't popular enough for her and she wanted to be popular. She pursued the road to societal acceptance at my expense. Her hatred of me may have been what led this bully into acting in the way that whe acted.

Why do we need to hurt others? The bully did damage to my psyche. But am I completely innocent? Maybe karma hit me. They say what goes around comes around and I am guilty of bullying someone when I was in elementary school so I certainly got what I deserved.

Yes, I have been a bully. I'll never forget the girl's face, I've had to live with it all my life. I once told a girl that she was ugly. She was surprised that I had said that and I repeated it. I was so mean to her that she left school and ran home crying. I never apologized for that and have wondered how much damage I did

to her by my unkind, no, downright hateful and hurtful remarks. Looking back on it I would do anything to take back those words. She may have been a very nice girl but I never knew that because I didn't really know her. Telling someone they're ugly and doing it in such a way that they run home crying is not the way to make friends and favorably influence people. And putting someone down in order to elevate yourself doesn't work either. It messes with your head.

Shall I give a text on how we are to treat people? How about this one, the 11th commandment:

[“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. – John 13:34](#)

This is also a good text:

[Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. – Romans 12:9,10](#)

According to Jesus and Paul who claimed he received the gospel directly from Jesus, we are to love each other. And be sure to notice that there is no condition placed upon who those others are. We are to love everyone, even those whom society has deemed to be unlovable. We are to love even those who are guilty of presenting a false picture of God. The unlovable, the marginalized, the religious leaders, family, friends, strangers, those of a different culture, different ethnicity, different religion, different orientation, different social class, etc... each and every one of us are loved by God and he wants us to love each and every one.

Pastors need to be careful about what they are teaching people when telling them how to treat “sinners.” When they teach that it is appropriate to act abusively toward those who act and believe in ways different than what they personally deem to be appropriate, it may backfire on them. At some point God will reveal the truth and do it in a way that nobody will be able to deny it any longer. The people will realize the pastors were guilty of lying about God and they will act towards the pastor in the way he taught them to act. They may turn on him and tear him to shreds.

As for this love thing and Jesus telling us to love each other, do you need an Ellen White quote for this? How about this one:

[The gold mentioned by Christ, the True Witness, which all must](#)

have, has been shown me to be faith and love combined, and love takes the precedence of faith. Satan is constantly at work to remove these precious gifts from the hearts of God's people. All are engaged in playing the game of life. Satan is well aware that if he can remove love and faith, and supply their place with selfishness and unbelief, all the remaining precious traits will soon be skillfully removed by his deceitful hand, and the game will be lost. – 2 Testimonies, p. 36

Now here's the thing. There are some people who are incapable of loving because they have never experienced love for themselves. They don't know what love is but they do know what abuse is and abuse is a failure to love. Those people who have never experienced love need to learn to love themselves so they can love others.

When I figure out how that works I'll let you know. It's a struggle for me. I desire to be able to love others yet I was taught that I am unworthy of love therefore I haven't experienced what love should be. But I am in better shape than lots of people because I have recognized this is a problem and am allowing the Holy Spirit to work within me in an attempt to make those changes. And having a decent husband is a big help. I have also experienced unconditional love from my son.

God must be doing his job because I don't write this stuff or keep this website active because of my fondness of writing. What I've learned since starting this project is that I don't like to write. But I have also learned that God isn't the malevolent being that the church has and continues to present him to be. He is so totally opposite of what the church is presenting and people need to open their eyes and see what is happening. And because I now know a different God I sit here and write this stuff in an attempt to share with you a better picture of our Creator. And I do this out of love for you who read this.

I don't enjoy writing this. For me writing is a form of therapy and I put too much of myself into it. I say things you don't need to hear but I say it because it's what is in my heart and I want to share with you my struggles and fears. I want to share them because you need to be able to face your own struggles and fears and with the help of the Holy Spirit come to terms with them. It's the process of healing. It's my hope that by my sharing you will find the courage to face the buggers that haunt you and find yourself on the road to healing.

And if my sharing means admitting I'm not a very nice person at times then I will admit it. I have been a bully to pastors that I thought behaved in ways unfitting for a pastor, and I bullied that poor girl way back in elementary. I sincerely hope

that she wasn't as traumatized by me as I was by my son's friend. And I pray that I will be able to finally forgive that person who bullied me and never be hurt by whet again.

Now please, nobody ask me to tell my worm story. I once brutalized a worm for no reason at all and it still haunts me! How does a person apologize to a dead worm?

Now for the third item and the computer says this is page number 7. Perhaps the topic of coercion should wait for a bit. Elkanah and I discussed it earlier and that topic is too overwhelming. He pointed out to me ways in which the church acts to force control over its members.

I keep asking the question "what authority does the church claim to have" and it sounded like Elkanah believes it's the authority to control and they do it through coercion. Just look at how the church is behaving and you'll see it happening. Scriptures are misquoted and twisted in order to convince people that their way is the right way and there is no other way.

If you don't believe that then start paying attention to what is happening in the church. Just two years ago at the GC convention in San Antonio a conference president got up to present his arguments against allowing the individual Unions the option to choose whether or not to ordain women into the ministry. I was able to get a transcript of his short speech and saw that he misapplied Scriptures to make them say what he needed them to say to support his own need, whatever that might be. Since it was a public speech then I'll share it with you:

[JAY GALLIMORE \(no\): I ask the delegates to vote no, not because our sisters are inferior. God loves His daughters as much as He loves His sons. We believe and need our sisters involved in ministry. We love to see them exercising their gifts in all kinds of gospel work. But vote no because God created a divine order of function at Creation with special roles for both. Sin did not change the fact of childbirth, agriculture, or Adam's headship role. Sin injected pain into all three. It is to that divine order that the apostle Paul appealed when he reserved the office of the elder for a man. He was directing the church into the same order established at Creation, the sanctuary, and Jesus' 12 apostles. The gifts of the Spirit, of which pastoring is one, are given to everyone, including children. Children may have the gift of the spiritual nurture, as well as men and women, but the office of overseeing the church and the family was reserved for men. Voting no will be the best route to restore and preserve the](#)

unity of the church. As a church, we are not held together by diversity, as much as we enjoy it, nor culture, as much as we like it. We are held together by the Bible. Allowing everyone to do their own thing on something as crucial as the ordaining of our ministers is to court division and pluralism. Yes, some may leave, sadly, but let it not be because we compromised the teachings of God's Word. Some will say this is not a biblical issue, but it is. Some will say it's not part of the 28 fundamental beliefs. Neither is the mark of the beast. I plead with the world church to stand firm on this issue. Vote no.

According to the Seventh-day Adventist Church's dogma, Mr. Gallimore was incorrect when he stated that sin did not change the fact of Adam's headship role. The Bible states that woman was created from Adam's rib and the church teaches that this signifies she was created as his equal, not his subordinate. As his equal she had just as many rights as he had. In Genesis when God told woman that her desire would be for her husband and he would rule over her, he wasn't placing a curse upon her. He was simply telling her that man was a brute and would abuse her. And men throughout history, especially the church, have used this text to enforce subordination of women. And that is only one of the ways Scriptures were misapplied in the above speech.

Why do so many people insist on practicing misogyny? And why are they so determined to force this demonic practice into the church? But the issue of whether or not to ordain women is just another red herring that satan has placed in the church in order to remove our focus from where it needs to be and that is Jesus. We must keep our focus on Jesus.

We open to ourselves the floodgates of woe or joy. If we permit our thoughts to be engrossed with the troubles and trifles of earth, our hearts will be filled with unbelief, gloom, and foreboding. If we set our affections on things above, the voice of Jesus will speak to our hearts, murmuring will cease, and vexing thoughts will be lost in praise to our Redeemer. Those who dwell upon God's great mercies and are not unmindful of His lesser gifts, will put on the girdle of gladness and make melody in their hearts to the Lord. Then they will enjoy their work. They will stand firm at their post of duty. They will have a placid temper, a trustful spirit. – Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 234

And since I'm now near the bottom of page 9, coercion will have to wait for another time. I wish you all a happy Sabbath and a life that is filled to

overwhelming – yes, I said overwhelming – with the love of our Creator.

Love to all...

Hannah