

SIGNPOSTS ON THE ROAD TO DENOMINATIONALISM IN THE CHURCH

Donald Townsley

1. Fundamental doctrines are laid aside in preaching.
2. Denominational error is no longer condemned.
3. Religious denominations are rarely criticized for what they do or teach.
4. Preaching on ðhell fire and damnationö is NOT done.
5. Popular sins of the day are not condemned (i.e. divorce and remarriage for any cause, dancing, drugs, drinking, gambling, immodest dress, fornication and homosexuality).
6. No preaching on the fundamentals of one faith, one baptism, and one body (Eph. 4: 3 ó 6).
7. Themes, such as ðDivine Authorityö, are forgotten.
8. The undenominational character of the church is not emphasized.
9. The ðsocial gospelö is not condemned as a great perversion of the Gospel of Christ.
 - (1) The Gospel of Christ is NOT a dual gospel ó social and spiritual.
10. When leadership undertakes to ðstand in the middle of the roadö, and will not have issues discussed for fear of offending someone.
 - (1) They do not value the truth, nor do they love the truth.
 - (2) We must have Bible authority for all that we do (Matt. 28: 18; Col. 3:17; Eph. 1: 22 ó 23).
 - (3) The New Testament church has a fixed pattern for all time, and it is our business to hold rigidly to that pattern regardless of the consequences (II Tim. 1:13).
11. When the attitude arises that we are at liberty to do anything not expressly forbidden, the door is open for instrumental music, societies, social gospel, and creeds.
 - (1) When the Lord authorizes something, all else is excluded.
 - a. When God commanded Noah to build the ark out of gopher wood (Gen. 6:14), pine wood, and all other kinds of wood were excluded.
 - b. Singing excludes using an instrument (Eph. 5:19).
12. The church faces the danger of inherited membership.
 - (1) Many are what they are religiously on no other basis than their parents were members of the church before them.
 - (2) Most denominational people are what they are on this basis.
 - (3) When ðourö children are without convictions, they have no real appreciation for the undenominational nature of the church.
 - (4) It is these children, and their children, who carry the church into digression.
 - a. These children no longer want ðchapter and verseö preaching.
 - (5) We should bring up our children in the admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6: 1 ó 4).
 - a. Israel had a responsibility to teach their children (Deut. 6: 6 ó 8).

13. When the church compromises their morals and doctrines to keep from hurting the feelings of men who have money and worldly standing.

14. When the church becomes a òcatchallò, including in its membership everyone who wishes to be, or can be persuaded to become a part ó without checking them out (Acts 9: 26 ó 28).

15. When the church does not let Truth have priority.

(1) Truth is more important than friendship (John 8: 32; Prov. 23: 23; II Thess. 2:10).

(2) Truth must have priority over family (Matt. 10: 34 ó 37).

(3) Truth must have priority over courtesy (II John 9 ó 11).

(4) Truth must have priority over peace, unity, and fellowship.

(5) Peace, unity, and fellowship are results of following and obeying the Truth.

(No originality claimed. Thoughts were taken from other sources.)

*160 Rice Road
Florence, AL 35633*