

WHY ARE THEY GOING OUT FROM US?

The Lord's church is going through a great apostasy throughout this nation. Many are going out from us because they are not of us, ". . . *for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they all are not of us*". (I John 2:19 ASV) Those who are going out from us are manifesting they are not of us in that they do not have the attitude toward divine authority that we have. They do not have the same spirit of obedience. This attitude is manifest in their preaching and private conversations. They preach on subjects as, "WHERE THERE IS NO PATTERN", and make statements such as, " We do many things for which we have no Bible authority", and "the Bible does not say not to have it." They have no scruples against presuming on the silence of the scriptures. The attitudes possessing our brethren who are going out from us are the same attitudes possessed by all sectarian people. We are witnessing the formation of a new denomination. At the rate they are going now, the modernism that will possess this body of people in years to come will be paralleled only by the liberal wing of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Those who are going out from us do not have the same attitude toward the church and her mission that we have. They look upon the church as a "RED CROSS, BABY SITTING, FUN AND FROLIC, BANQUET HALL, MONEY-RAISING" organization to be used as a tool in the hands of men to further all the philanthropic endeavors that "do-gooders" can dream up to better man in this life. The emphasis is on man in this life, a social concept of the church and the gospel.

The spirituality that many of these people once had is almost gone. The loose concept of the authority of Christ in matters doctrinal is having its effect in their thinking morally. Sins that would have been met with Bible discipline a few years ago are tolerated and winked at among them. I think a point we may have overlooked somewhat is that immorality is one of the marks of apostasy.

When these brethren think of church action, they do not think of local congregations acting separate and independent of each other, but of church-universal action, local churches acting jointly through a central organization.

They are going out from us because there is not compatibility between us. Our attitudes toward authority are entirely different. We can do nothing without divine authority. When apostasies and factions come, the God of heaven uses them to manifest the approved (I Cor. 11:19).

Brother or sister, are you among the approved or disapproved of the Lord? (I Cor. 11:19; I John 2:19).

Donald Townsley

From "The Expounder", Dec. 5, 1961