

Legalists and Authoritarian Zealots Hate Free Thought!

The following email from a person who asked to remain anonymous expressed concern about a book by John Bevere which apparently promotes unquestioned authority in the churches. Interestingly enough, several friends and a few relatives of mine have brought this book to my attention. So, I know it's being discussed in several churches, at least, here in Texas.

I have ordered this book on Amazon.com. Costs about \$10. I plan to read it and comment on it. If it is promoting what I think it is, then something needs to be said about it to encourage others to read books like that with caution while applying the admonition in 1 John 4:1 to test it against God's Holy Word.

I do have some comments to make which were prompted by the following email and another email from a person in a Canadian Baptist church whose pastor was apparently playing the dictator and squashing dissent and criticizing those who disagreed with him.

I would like to provide the names of these people so you can question them yourselves regarding the accuracy of my statements; however, they have asked to remain anonymous for now. Though I wish otherwise, I have no choice but to honor their request.

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 4:34 PM
To: rehudson1@hotmail.com
Subject: john Bevere Under cover

Dear Mr. Hudson,

Our church is currently doing John Bevere's Under Cover video series, and I am concerned with some of the application of this teaching. It seems that to question what is being taught points to the fact we have an 'issue with coming under authority'. I can see this teaching as being dangerous when taken to the extreme. In fact it could be used as the basis for control by those who seek to 'Lord over others'.

Do you have any thoughts, articles or advice on this video series?

Thank you,

Yes, I have some thoughts!

Run from any teaching that criticizes questioning. Run faster from any teaching that advocates "submission" to religious authority as submission to Christ. Always

remember, there is no mediator between us and God, except Christ; no mediator between us and Christ, period! If you forget that, you will lose the freedom Christ shed His precious blood for.

We should challenge these teachings!

But, if we are unable to stay this insidious tide of lies and spiritual debauchery within our given assemblies, then the best defense is to run from it and to seek for fellowship with other Christians who are not polluted by this legalistic doctrine from hell itself.

I am still repairing from the loss of a wife, children, and grandchildren to this doctrine of "submitting to authority", "submitting to brethren", "submitting to those who have the rule over you," and not questioning their teachings. This is a doctrine from Hell which God's Word specifically warns will consume the Church in the last days.

Legalism consumes its participants. Too much history since Sodom and Gomorrah substantiates this. It was tried in China once long before Christ and it destroyed a whole dynasty and turned a nation upon itself, consuming and devouring one another. Hitler's Nazi Germany was probably as bad as it gets in advocating legalism and bigotry. Millions died because of it. There was "Uncle Joe" Stalin who killed and oppressed millions. Why? Because they disagreed with him and he had the power to do away with them. And today, we have the likes of Saddam Hussein and his Ba'ath party which practiced daily atrocities on free thinking Iraqi peoples.

Just as legalism consumes its participants in the political arena, it is equally lethal in any environment – corporate, political, religious, and even in families! We saw the extreme forms in David Koresh and Jim Jones. The remarkable and puzzling thing about these people is that they can convince even very intelligent and often well educated people who should know better to follow them, even if it kills them literally!

How do we avoid becoming ensnared in traps guys like this set for unsuspecting souls?

God encourages us to question thoughts and teachings - 1 John 4:1 (TMNT) "My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world."

Legalists and authoritarian zealots are intolerant of people who think differently. They are so intolerant, in fact, that they will put unbelievable pressure on people to conform to their thoughts and their doctrines. They condemn free thought or questioning as heretical and go so far as to demonize and shun those who exercise 1 John 4:1. They go about as conquerors seeking whom they may conquer and devour. They are nothing less than Satanists, for they are willing to destroy the holy institutions of marriage and families to conform one soul to their way of thinking.

In short, those who advocate unquestioning submission to church authority hate those who refuse to compromise our Christ-bought freedom and submit to their authority. And in so doing, they apply fit the description in 1 John 4: 20 & 21 (TMNT) – “If anyone boasts, “I love God,” and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won’t love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can’t see?”

As you can see, I have very strong feelings about this teaching. It is dangerous. It destroys Christians. It is subtle! It is insidious! It is Satan’s weapon of choice because it sounds and appears so good. And it is being used today to infect and destroy the churches in Christendom.

I have written a few articles in PDF format. You can find them on www.battereddsheep.com under my name. These are designed to encourage people to THINK with God’s Word. You can print them off and pass them to others.

I am one person shouting warnings into a wilderness of unsuspecting souls. There are others, because I have met some like those who post on Battered Sheep. We need more Christians warning people against this sick and dangerous doctrine and pointing their minds to the captain of their souls, Jesus Christ.

There is no mediator between God and man save the God-anointed and God-appointed Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. And Christ has said we can come freely to Him. There is no mediator between us and Him.

Any man or woman who advocates that church authority should not be questioned is setting the stage for totalitarianism. For despotism in the churches! They are advocates of the devil! Teachers of hypocrisy! They seek to consume the souls of men by coming between them and their Savior who said in John 12:32(KJV) “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

My dear friend, if you love God and His anointed and appointed Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, fight the good fight because this is it! This is the fight! Be a good soldier! Be prepared and unafraid to fight this damnable lie and the proponents of this lie with the truth from God’s Word! We need soldiers like you!

May God bless and arm you powerfully with the truth.

Your friend and fellow soldier in Christ,

Richard Hudson

Micah 6:8