

Five Spiritual Positions

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the different positions in which a person can be spiritually.
2. Rom. 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
 - a. Rom. 6:12-18
 - b. Servant of sin or servant of righteousness - spiritual positions
3. Every accountable soul [those old enough to understand right and wrong] is in one of five positions spiritually.
4. Chart
 - a. One large circle represents the "Local Congregation" - Acts 18:1-11 - Corinth
 - b. Another large circle represents the "Universal Church" - Jesus said in Matt. 16:18 "and upon this rock I will build my church"
 - c. The small circle represents the "Individual Christian" - Acts 16:1-3 - Timothy
5. Everyone of the age of accountability is in one of five positions spiritually

Discussion

I. POSITION NUMBER ONE

- A. All those outside of Christ are in the world
- B. Eph. 2:12 "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"
 1. Without Christ - apart from - separate from Christ
 2. Aliens - estranged - asv has the word alienated - BBE = Cut Off
 3. Strangers - foreign

4. With no hope
 5. Without God.
- C. Lost in Sin!
- D. How do we get into Christ ?
1. Romans 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"
 2. Galatians 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 3. Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."
 4. 1 Cor. 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

II. POSITION NUMBER TWO

- A. On the "Church Roll" but not a Christian
1. Have been baptized
 2. True when many are not converted - obey for the wrong reason -
 - a. To please mate
 - b. Buying fire insurance
 - c. Know that they need to be baptized - but that is all they want to do
 3. Have not obeyed the truth from the heart
 4. Placed membership - but not genuine - live as a hypocrite - continue in sin
- B. Romans 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you"

- C. Gal. 2:4 - Paul spoke of "false brethren" "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:" = False ~a spurious brother, pretended

III. POSITION NUMBER THREE

- A. They are in a saved condition
1. Been added to the Universal church
 2. But they are not a part of any local congregation
 3. Rm. 6:17 - obeyed from the heart the form of doctrine
 4. Acts 2:47 - they are added to the church
- B. This could and should be only a temporary position
1. Acts 8:26-39 - The Eunuch was taught and baptized by Phillip
 2. He was not a member of the church in Samaria, or in Jerusalem
 3. He probably started a congregation in his own home - Ethiopia
- C. Could be true today
1. New convert
 2. New in a community - visiting different congregations for a short time
 3. Illustration - as a boy my family moved to Central Kentucky. My mother and father were members of the church. There was no church in the county where we moved. They soon found some other families who were members of the church and we began meeting in the home of one of those families. In a few months they formed a congregation and started meeting in a building. During this time my parents and some others were in this third position. They were members of the universal church but not a member of any local church.

IV. POSITION NUMBER FOUR

- A. An "Individual Christian" is part of the "Local Congregation" and is in the "Universal Church". - This is the position God approves and desires.
- B. Scriptures
 - 1. Eph. 1:1 - to the saints at Ephesus - local Church
 - 2. Phi. 1:1 - To all the saints which are at Philippi
 - 3. Col. 1:2 - To the saints which are at Colossae
 - 4. Heb. 10:25 - assemble
 - 5. Acts 11:26 -
 - a. They assembled a whole year with the church -
 - b. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.
- C. These are people who have obeyed the gospel
 - 1. Obeyed from the heart
 - 2. Sincere - genuine - not hypocritical
- D. They are part of a congregation
 - 1. Scripturally organized with elders and deacons - Phil. 1:1
 - 2. Worshiping and serving God as commanded in the Bible
 - 3. Spreading the Gospel in the local community and around the world
 - 4. These are Christians who are living "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Tit. 2:12
 - 5. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20
 - 6. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" Eph. 4:13

V. POSITION NUMBER FIVE

A. Erring Christian

1. He leaves the local congregation - goes back into sin - does not worship God and does not live "soberly, righteously and godly" but living a worldly life of sin.
2. James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
 - a. Err from the truth
 - b. Goes away from that which he had learned - the truth - the gospel
3. 1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."
4. But he is still in the "Universal Church" — if he was not still in the "Universal Church" then he would have to be baptized again in order to be restored.

B. Scriptures which describe

1. Heb. 6:4-6 - v. 6 "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Fallen away - crucifying Christ Afresh
2. Heb. 10:25-30 - no more sacrifice for sins v. 26 "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,"
3. Gal. 5:4 - "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

CONCLUSION

1. A person in position number five can return to number four through repentance and prayer -
 - a. Acts 8:18-24 - Simon the sorcerer sinned after obeying the gospel - he was told to repent and pray
 - b. 1 John 1:8-9 - confess our sins
 2. In which position are you spiritually?
 - a. If you are in the number 1 position "lost" you do not have to remain there.
 - b. You can obey the gospel and become a Christian right now.
 - c. Are you ready?
 3. Becoming a Christian is not difficult and is possible for all of us to do.
 - a. You must believe, Repent, Confess and be baptized into Christ
 - b. Then you can live faithfully
 4. Obey from the heart - live faithfully - then you have the hope of a home with God in Heaven
 5. Where are you spiritually ?
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