

GO WITH THE FLOW

BY: BRAD CULLEN – MARCH 27, 2004

Some time during writing the recent series, Seven Simple Secrets (from March 9, 2004), someone wrote to me that it seemed to him I was advocating waging a constant battle against things instead of accepting them the way they are. He elaborated by saying that to him the ultimate expression of worship is the acceptance of everything as being God ordained. Since he had adopted the philosophy that God was in control of everything in his life he understood peace and tranquility, as never before, is how he put it. He finished his rather long treatise with the statement, "I prefer to go with the flow."

Since he was rather argumentative in his e-mail, I merely responded (in a wholly accepting manner I thought) that whatever worked for him is wonderful and signed off by thanking him for writing to me.

My acceptance of what worked for him was unacceptable to him. The essence of his response was that he thought I was doing a disservice to those that read my articles. Instead of presenting the Gospel that everything has already been accomplished I was instilling in people the thought that they had to battle for everything that had already been won for them.

I pointed out that this was an argument with which I was neither unfamiliar nor was I in opposition to it, philosophically. I wrote back asking him if he was advocating that a person with a disease (for example) should just accept it as something God had put upon him or her for His own mysterious purposes? I ended by asking if that was what he meant by "going with the flow?" I wrote that I wasn't trying to convince him of anything, but I merely wanted to know clearly what he was saying so we could have meaningful communication.

I received back a twenty-six-page attachment replete with Bible references for almost each and every line, along with his detailed arguments that God controlled everything. I answered that I did not disagree with anything he wrote and I was familiar with all the passages he quoted, but I told him I felt we were "talking past one another." That was several days ago and I've heard nothing further.

Now then, since he and I couldn't get into some meaningful dialogue, I'm stuck with making some assumptions, or I could just go with the flow, accept what he said and let it go.

Probably one out of every twenty of those that respond to my articles argues that the enemy was already defeated by the death of Jesus Christ. Something just struck me rather forcefully. Jesus' stepbrother James, apparently writing to some fellow Jewish Christians some twenty years after Jesus' death and resurrection wrote: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Now, for anyone that insists upon having a Bible reference for any thesis - there it is. James is NOT saying, "go with the flow of whatever the devil happens to throw at us" - no, he is saying exactly the opposite. Resist!

Jesus said that the one he referred to as the "god of this world" or perhaps better translated as the "chief ruling spirit" that governs the behind the scenes activity on this planet, has just two purposes: One is the destruction of our faith in God and the other is the death of human inhabitants on this earth.

I have a hard time with the thought of putting out the welcome mat for those things that Jesus said come from Satan and saying that it comes from God.

It seems that Jesus said we have a choice. We can follow his simple instructions for getting more of God's own spirit and go with His flow to resist and destroy the works of the enemy.

Or we can follow the way, which seems right, but ends up in our destruction at the hands of the enemy. I didn't say that, Jesus said it! I'm really not interested in arguing the point, but I do want to clearly let everyone know my choice. My choice is to go with the flow of God's own Spirit within me.

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