

IT LOOKS SO GOOD, BUT IS IT?

BY: BRAD CULLEN - JANUARY 2005

Jesus said, "I hate the things they do!" What things? Who is doing those things that Jesus hates? Should I make sure I'm not doing "these things?"

"These things" are setting up a system of spiritual leaders to have control over the "common" man, a division between the official "leaders" and the "laity."

Jesus initiated a brotherhood under only ONE Father - A brotherhood with only ONE Leader and Teacher. Jesus said that we are neither to accept nor grant titles or positions that imply spiritual superiority or authority. We have ONE Leader and Teacher - all the rest of us are brothers [period].

If any of us have ambition to be a part of that system, and be a leader among leaders, we are taking part in the deeds Jesus hates? "Come out of her!"

Our highest destiny is to be one of the brothers able to do all our Elder Brother was able to do. I didn't say that, Jesus said it. I'm merely quoting:

"Hate that system and come out of it!"

Now then, shall we ask some hard questions? Okay, here they are:

Questions:

- 1] Who reported that Jesus said the foregoing about hating this system of human hierarchy?
- 2] Why did he write it and when? [when and why are inextricably connected].
- 3] Who started this system Jesus hates?
- 4] How has it been perpetrated?
- 5] Who are the practitioners of that system today and why?

These questions may be a lot harder than we, at first, recognized and may have implications that can lead us to some powerful and exciting alternatives?

Answers:

1] Rev. 1:1-3 - John wrote it, according to most historians, somewhere between 90 and 110 A.D.

2] John said he wrote this because Jesus ordered him to [Rev. 1:11-20]. As with his Gospel written during the same period, it seems as though the reason as to why Jesus likely ordered this message to be circulated some 60 years after his death is rather obvious; certain practices had crept into the young group that needed to be corrected.

3] As to who started this hierarchial system from reading Acts and Paul's letters - there seems to be little doubt. Right from the beginning, the disciples strayed from his original instructions.

When we consider that even Matthew's Gospel, which most historians believe was written after 70 A.D., has the most clearly laid out directive related to operating as a brotherhood of equals - some ten years after Paul's writing of Ephesians and First Corinthians and basis of most hierarchial group's defense of their practices - it seems more than just likely that the Gospel account was also written as a corrective to some of the things Paul wrote. Note: I'm not saying that Paul's intention was to deliberately disavow Jesus' clear instructions about a brotherhood. I'm merely pointing out that those who ignore what Jesus said, do so on the basis of what Paul wrote.

4] Review 3] above.

5] Organized Christianity. The reasons are myriad and vary from denomination - some believe the primary reason is that all such groups are under the control of a "religious spirit" and that the "pastor" is an unwitting puppet.

The primary references are Rev. 2:6, 15 "the Nicolaitans." **Nico** means control over and **laitan** is the word from which we get laity or common [untrained and uncertified] person.

The "church" looks so good, but is it?

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