



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH!

March 2002

Many would agree that we are in the Laodicean stage of the Church, Rev. 3:14-20. However, I contend that most, if not all, Fundamental Baptist (are there any other Fundamental ones?) churches are Laodicean. Few want to believe that; but I believe they are deceived. We always tend to think we are better than we are. I hope you will look at the following quotes of fundamentalists who ministered 50 to 100 years ago. They indicated that the compromise and worldliness in the Bible believing churches of their day was Laodicean. Is not worldliness a sign that God's people are **"lukewarm"**? What about the other indications: **"...rich, increased with goods and have need of nothing..."** But what did God say? **"...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and, miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"** Here's what these men of God wrote; Dr. Ironside (about 1910): *"It is of grave importance that we bear this principle in mind in these Laodicean times. We live in days when truth for which myriads of martyrs shed their blood is considered hardly worthy of being contended for - days when the claims of God as set forth in His faithful Word are openly set aside by those who 'call themselves by the name of the Lord...' Latitudinarianism is the prevailing order and few ask, 'What saith Scripture?'"* Dr. A. C. Gaebelein (about 1920): *"Look about and see the thousands and thousands of God's people who instead of being transformed are conformed to this world. They have fallen in with the present evil age, and instead of being separated, they walk in its ways and hence they are barren in spiritual things...Let us not think so much of the pleasures of this world, the attractive things for the senses...the possession and enjoyment of earthly things."* Dr. Clarence Larkin (late 1920's): *As Christians, we find ourselves captives in the Babylonian life of worldliness and pleasure that surrounds us, and instead of being transformed are conformed to this world. We have fallen in with the spirit of this 'Present evil age' and are living a life of compromise the outcome of which is a life of powerlessness and spiritual barrenness...Let us dare to be a Daniel."* Dr. M. R. DeHaan (about 1947): *"Without fear of successful contradiction, we dare to say that the greatest need of the Church today is a company of separated saints of God who will refuse stedfastly to be swayed by the world's program... No greater blight has ever beset the Church of Jesus Christ than the blight of compromise and conformity to the world and its program. We are a redeemed people and a peculiar people and a holy nation... The line of difference and demarcation between the Church and the world has almost been wiped out, and those few followers of Christ who dare to be different and refuse to go along are so small in number that they are looked upon as odd and peculiar and even fanatical and narrow-minded. The scandalous and positively immoral innovations of dress and attire, which I am sure are the prime causes of immorality and divorce and juvenile delinquency, are meekly accepted, and worse than that, are copied by the folks who profess to be Christian, with hardly a protest from those who are spiritual leaders...The reason Christians are not taken more seriously by the world, and why our testimony falls on deaf ears most of the time, is because the world cannot see any difference between themselves and us. They see Christians frequenting the same places of worldly amusement...using the same language, dressing in the same shameful way... The only difference is that we have our names on church rolls and go to church."* (Page 2)

AN UNPLEASANT UNDERTAKING

One of the most unpleasant and unappreciated tasks we are told to do as Christians is to rebuke one who has wronged us (or wronged the Church of God); **"If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him..."** ~Luke 17:3. It is the fastest way I know to lose a friend or brother! I believe it is little practiced because it is sure to bring grief. Spurgeon said, *"Most of us would rather be ruined by flattery than saved by criticism."* He was referring to correction. Few believers are spiritual enough to take correction properly. Most usually get defensive and some get downright mean. I have said it many times, I think some Fundamentalists believe in perfectionism for I have seen so few honestly and humbly admit it when they are wrong. Proverbs 9:8 says, **"Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee; rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."** I have seen few, very few wise men on this score in 51 years. *Biblical correction, rebuke is an act of love!* The apostle Paul had to rebuke Peter, and that publicly. Yet Peter later referred to his corrector as **"our Beloved Brother Paul."** We say we believe the King James Bible is the very Word of God - Yes, the very words, but it seems we have a problem with some of it. II Timothy 3:16 says, **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine REPROOF, CORRECTION..."** Tragically, few Christians can successfully be reprovved, rebuked! Have you tried it lately? Most Pastors are afraid to because the offender will probably leave the Church.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

54 Brighton Street

P.O. Box 438

Belmont, MA 02478

www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

THE BELIEVER'S SACRIFICE

From Spurgeon's sermon on Hebrews 13:15. **"... let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."** "Adoration is the grandest form of earthly service. Does not our conversation want more flavoring with praise of God? We put too much vinegar of complaint, and forget the sugar of gratitude...You must live in fellowship with God or you cannot praise Him. You must also have an overflowing content, *a real joy in Him.* Be sure that you do not lose your joy. If you ever lose the joy of religion, you will lose the power of religion. Do not be satisfied to be a miserable believer. An unhappy believer is a poor creature; but he who is resigned to being so is in a dangerous condition...Praise is called a sacrifice because it is a very sacred and solemn thing. We cannot praise God with levity. He is Heaven and we are upon the earth. He is thrice holy and we are sinful; we must put off our shoe in holy reverence...We need *a deep and ardent admiration of the Lord.* Admire the Father - think much of His love; acquaint yourself with His perfections. Admire the Son, the Altogether Lovely One...suffer your heart to be wholly enamored of Him. Admire the patience and condescension of the Holy Ghost, that He should dwell in you... Every creature is happiest when it is doing what it is made for. A bird is made to fly abroad and pines in a cage; an eagle would die in water...Christians are made to glorify God; we are never in our element till we are praising Him. *Praise God, brethren, because this is what God loves.*" Notice the next verse: **"with such sacrifices God is well pleased."**