

BEWARE OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS!

by
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Yahshua Messiah said He would FIGHT against any who hold this wicked doctrine of the Nicolaitans! Don't you think you ought to know what that doctrine is and avoid it like the plague? In this booklet, you will come to see plainly what the doctrine of the Nicolaitans is in order for you to beware, or even repent if you have been involved.

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There are only two Scriptures in the Bible which mention the Nicolaitans. Both of these are in the letters to the assemblies in Revelation 2. But before we go to that chapter, let us read Revelation 1:1 which states that what you are about to read in the letters to the assemblies is from the Father. Notice... "The revelation of Yahshua Messiah (not John), which Yahweh (the Father) gave Him (Messiah) to show His servants--things which must shortly (in a short period of time) take place..." We can KNOW that this is authentic. It is from the Supreme Sovereign, the heavenly Father, and it came through His faithful Son, whose name is above all other names that can be named.

In verse 6, Yahshua commended His assembly when He said "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." In verse 15, Yahshua showed it was a serious problem "So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come unto you quickly, and fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

Consider for a moment. Yahshua is sending a message to the assemblies, HIS assemblies, and all of the assemblies were to listen and heed. He said that one of the things He hates is the deeds and doctrine of the Nicolaitans. He hates it so badly that He will personally fight against those who have those deeds and hold that doctrine and are living by it. Then He instructs the assembly to REPENT! I would think so, for who would want to have Messiah fight against him? Well, what is this strange sounding doctrine, and what is at least one of its major deeds? Remember, if we love Yahweh our ELOHIM, we will also hate this evil (Psalms 197:10).

DIOTREPES EFFECT

III John 9-10 "I wrote (says Yahweh's apostle John) unto the assembly: but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and forbids them that would, and casts them out of the assembly."

Here we find one of the major deeds of those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. They seem to relish having authority over others. They want to be recognized, lauded, and love to have preeminence. They will go to any extreme to hold this authority over the brethren with fear, even to casting some out of the assembly. They feel they have to defend their "position" of preeminence. Of course, NO MAN can cast a Believer out of the body of Messiah, the spiritual organism which is made up of the called out ones who have the Kodesh Spirit. But men can cast out of a local congregation or an organization. Here is this passage, the fearless brethren were being cast out. They were not afraid to show love and mercy and service to other true disciples of Yahshua Messiah who did NOT hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

The wielding of authority usually is accomplished through a perversion of Scripture to rid themselves of any who pose a 'threat' to their authority or control.

MARKING

Any assembly which holds this wicked doctrine will at some time or another pervert

Romans 16:17 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them."

The word 'mark' simply means 'take note of'. It DOES NOT mean stand in a pulpit and name peoples' names as ones who are disfellowshipped! At times, names must be mentioned on account of false doctrines being promulgated; but that is so the brethren can avoid them. Even Paul had to warn against certain individuals by name.

Yet, in this passage, who are the brethren to take note of? Those who are trying to divide the group by doctrines contrary to the sound doctrines previously taught and proved by the Scriptures. Invariably, those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans will cast out from their midst those who hold fast the true doctrines which had been taught, those who will not follow the leadership into apostasy! In order to protect the assembly (sounds magnanimous), those who won't go along with the error of the leaders are labeled as those causing division. Their names are called out in the assembly as being disfellowshipped, rebellious toward authority, and thus now of Satan, not Messiah. In reality, those doing the disfellowshipping are the ones causing the divisions. Yahshua commended those who would not follow the leaders into the deeds and doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

As we can see, this evil doctrine has to do with assembly authority, assembly government. What kind of government? Usually any form which can control the people. It is generally from the top down. A hierarchical ruler-ship. At times assemblies, which do not have an easy to be seen structure from the top down, use a disguised method to point their fingers, implicate brethren who are sincerely trying to hold fast the truth and grow in grace and knowledge. Those holding fast are referred to as "having left Yahweh's assembly." They can even be labeled as deceivers. This holding of a vice like grip over the minds of the brethren, either directly or indirectly, both through fear tactics, is brought about by the leadership that has an innate and inordinate desire to be noticed and looked up to. They must maintain some kind of front, a reputation. Like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

CORRUPTING SCRIPTURE

Sometimes this doctrine of the Nicolaitans comes from the subtle and careful perversion of Scripture. The result will be to split the Assembly Of Yahweh. Notice a very eye-opening, hard to believe (by some) Scripture in the instruction given by the apostle Paul to the elders of Ephesus. Acts 20:28-30: "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Kodesh Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Assembly of Yahweh which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."

Let's notice some of the pertinent points of this passage. Can you, and will you, believe it, being warned thereby? Paul is speaking to the elders. They had been made overseers of the flock which belonged to Yahshua Messiah, not them. After Paul would depart the scene, men described as savage would enter among the elders. And from among the elders there would be some who would pervert Scripture. It would be done for the purpose of gaining a personal following.

What kind of a mind would think of even doing such a thing? It is a mind that wants to be looked up to. A mind that relishes people who say to them "We look to you for leadership!" Pride begins to enter, deceiving that person into believing that he is growing in grace and

knowledge, when in actuality, he is departing from the faith. That person must be one with personal charisma. One who departs just a little from the true doctrine making it sound good, right, and logical. Invariably, certain Scriptures will be avoided. But when this happens, if the elder is in a position to influence many, there will be those who will not follow the error and will cease to function with that group. The result is that those going along with the error are drawn away from the truth into a form of apostasy.

COMMENT: In order to draw brethren, and/or other elders away, the false doctrine must be very close to the true doctrine in order to make it sound plausible. Far too often, the brethren do not study carefully enough to recognize the error. But the warning is that we should study diligently so we will hold fast the truth. Do you remember the admonition found in II Thesalonians 2:10 where it mentions those who did not receive "the love of the truth!"?

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Yahshua Messiah is the head of His Assembly. He never left ruler-ship of the brethren to any individual or group of individuals who would lord it over Yahweh's heritage in any way whatsoever. Yahshua left the disciples with no doubt as to who was to be head of the Assembly. In Matthew 16:18 we find "And I (Yahshua) say also unto you (Peter), That you are Peter (petros in Greek, meaning a small pebble or stone), and upon this rock (petra in Greek, meaning a huge giant boulder) I will build my Assembly..." That petra is Yahshua Messiah Himself, and NOT Peter. Those who hold the false doctrine of the primacy of Peter also hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans! Yahshua left further instruction to His apostles to make the matter very clear to them. In Matthew 20:25-28 "But Yahshua called them (disciples) unto Him, and said, You know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise lordship (dominion) over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU! But whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let them be your servant: EVEN AS the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Here, Yahshua plainly says to His true apostles they were not to lord it over the brethren at all, period.

NICOLAITANS

What does the doctrine of the Nicolaitans really mean? The word 'Nicolaitan' comes from a root meaning "conqueror of the people". It has to do with holding sway over people, controlling their minds, keeping them in subjection to "authority" out of fear, and especially fear of being "put out". This is the same evil existing in the synagogue of the time when our Savior walked this earth. Read of the Pharisees and what they did in John 9.

This hierarchical rule over Yahweh's people DID NOT COME from the Bible. It came from 'baptized paganism'! Following is a series of quotations from a prominent radio/TV minister over the largest single organization of Assembly of Yahweh today. These quotations are absolutely TRUE. Anyone wishing to have the full article can request a copy from the author of this booklet at the address given on the inside front cover.

"There is not one single HINT in the New Testament of any Church BOARD with authority to rule, to govern, to decide doctrine, or to handle tithes and church finances...Jesus never organized, or re-organized His Church! There is NO SCRIPTURE for it!...there is NO BIBLE AUTHORITY for a super-government, or organization with

authority over the local congregations!...The plain teaching of "Jesus" is JUST THE CONTRARY! ...How, then, did ORGANIZATION, and the idea of CHURCH GOVERNMENT get into the Church? It came out of BABYLON! Spiritual BABYLON--that is, ROME! The same as nearly all other false doctrines of Satan...the very PRINCIPLE OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT becomes THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST! The whole thing is FALSE! It is NOT ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE! It is part of BABYLON! Those who are IN, and MEMBERS of such an organized church government, submitting to doctrines declared by unscriptural boards as a fellowship test, are IN BABYLON, and actually worshippers of THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST! And God is calling us, HIS people OUT OF BABYLON today, before it is too late--before the PLAGUES fall! Brethren, let us have the courage to accept the TRUTH, and to COME OUT!

"The OBJECT of the Church is not to build up an organization, or a movement...The New Testament Church is not a kingdom--not a church government--but an assembly of individuals CALLED OUT--Spirit-filled individuals, and therefore a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM, not an organization. "Jesus" said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be ROOTED UP!" Our heavenly Father never planted any super-organization, or established any church GOVERNMENT, or set men IN AUTHORITY over either the spiritual or financial affairs, in the New Testament Church. Any such "plant" was never planted of GOD--and therefore IT SHALL BE ROOTED UP!

"But there is no super-organization over and above local congregations IN THE NEW TESTAMENT! And any such "plant" is certain to be "ROOTED UP"!

"What has split and divided up the saints in the "Church of God?" Nothing but ORGANIZATION--which has led to politics, apostasy ministers lusting for rule and for power--striving against each other, lining up the brethren on THEIR side, against the other! It is SUCH PREACHERS who have split up and divided our brethren! God's Word command us to COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, and be separate. God's last warning is, "COME OUT OF BABYLON!!"

"Organization and church GOVERNMENT has brought us only strife, jealousies, divisions, bitterness! If it is not of God, and it can bear no other fruit."

Quoted from the article "Did Christ Reorganize the Church?" By Herbert W. Armstrong and published in the GOOD NEWS magazine February 1939. Emphasis was his, not mine.

TRUTH IS TRUTH

No matter who it comes from, truth is truth. Mr. Armstrong was "right on" in that article. The apostasy from that beautiful truth has led to heartache, broken families, confusion, hatreds, and the falling away of far too many of the brethren of Yahweh's Assembly. Yahshua Messiah said He is going to fight against those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. He hates it! He hates it because it leads to idolatry. Instead of leaders saying, "Follow me as I follow Messiah," the ministers say "follow your leader even if he is wrong!" That, dear friends, is the road to the LAKE OF FIRE! There is not just one Elder and not just one Assembly.

In the true Assembly of Yahweh there should be no one "lording" it over others. We of the Church of God in Anadarko, Oklahoma, believe Yahshua Messiah is Sovereign and no man. We believe the ministers are to guide the brethren under their care, and if they begin to wander from the truth, the brethren are not to follow! We believe a true minister of Yahshua should be

able to turn from error when shown in a kind and gentle way that he is in error, and has strayed from the truth. We also believe a true minister must stand firm in proven truth and admonish the brethren to do the same.

This is the Bible approach, and Yahweh is well pleased with His instructions being carried out. There are NO ministerial ranks, and we are all brothers in Messiah and subject to one another. In no way will we exercise "lordship" over Yahweh's heritage for we know, and tremble, that the Assembly has been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Yahshua Messiah, and belong absolutely to Him and the Father in heaven.

SUMMARY

Yahshua Messiah is the Living Head of His Assembly, no man is. He said in I Corinthians 11:3 "I would have you know, that the head of every man is Messiah; and the head of every woman is the man; and the head of Messiah is Yahweh." In John 6, Yahshua said all the ones the Father would give Him, He would in NO WISE cast out, and no man is able to pluck them out of His Father's hand. Read John 10. The ministers are to be shepherds of, not rulers over, Yahweh's people. For any of those who are embers of organizations which have the deeds of the Nicolaitans and hold that wicked doctrine, Yahshua says for you to repent, and come out, or you will be one of the victims of the sword of His mouth.

TESTIMONY

I was a long time faithful member of the Worldwide Church of God, formerly, the Radio Church of God. In January 1979 I became a victim of the doctrine of the Nicolaitans as I was falsely 'marked' according to the perversion of Romans 16:17, with my name mentioned in local assembly services. I do not accept present false teaching of the primacy of Peter; Yahweh's government (so called) in the Assembly, which is the wicked doctrine of the Nicolaitans which I also hate; nor do I accept many other false doctrines now being taught by that organization and others.

I am a minister of Yahshua Messiah and the Assembly of the Living Elohim, of which Yahshua Messiah is the Living Heart. As such, I am devoted to the service of Yahweh's people which Yahshua bought with His own precious blood. Not only must I serve them to the best of my ability as Yahweh strengthens me with His Spirit, but to love them, and if need be, to give up my life for them.

I have also been called and sent by Yahshua Messiah to faithfully preach His word; to warn our nation of its impending disaster unless the people repent of their sins. This is the primary message of today! As such, I am one of a pitiful few who will not compromise the task before us. Regrettably, I am also charged with calling the Assembly of Yahweh to repentance. Revelation 2 & 3 is to be fulfilled in our day, and the message Yahshua gave is to repent. May Yahweh, my heavenly Father, and His Messiah, Yahshua my King, grant me the strength to be faithful unto death, and all those who are anointed to preach.

