

# And where will it end...?

It has been over a week since I first received word that the 2012 edition of *Churches of Christ in the United States* is now including the instrumentalist in their directory. I have spent consider time mulling this over and have read several posts regarding this inclusive gesture.

*To say that I am disturbed* is a characterization that comes nowhere close to describing my reaction. *To say that I am saddened* by the compromise is not sufficient to describe the weight that burdens my heart for the Lord's Church.

In last night's Bible Class I was continuing our journey through the Bible and had arrived at 1 Kings 18-19. In that section is Ahab's infamous blasphemy asking God's holy prophet, *Is this you, you troubler of Israel?*" (verse 17). *The Prophet did not hesitate to reply. Elijah was one never to be reticent. Quickly God's word rebuked the blasphemous Ahab, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed the Baals* (verse 18)

Ahab's flagrantly false charge has been repeated by the instrumentalists who in pious pretentious words say, "WE have not cause the trouble but those opposing the instrument are the troublers of the Church!" *Do you see* what they are doing? *Do you hear* what they are saying? Put their retort in biblical context and they are standing by Ahab's right hand when he attempts to vilify the prophet because Elijah dared to follow God's Word.

Brethren, where will our "acceptance" end? Where will our "tolerance" end? Where will our "inclusion" end? Is there no boundary? Is all acceptable and justified merely on the basis of whims and personal taste?

Will "our" next edition of a directory for churches of Christ include the congregations that openly embrace homosexuals? If the homosexuals are to be excluded then what is the basis for excluding them and including the instrumentalists? Argue the point however you want but when all is said this simple point must be addressed...**ONLY GOD'S WORD (THE BIBLE) ESTABLISHES THE DIVINE CRITERION FOR IDENTIFICATION AS GOD'S CHURCH!** You can ignore or manipulate or wrest the Scriptures to give your blasphemy the justification that you need in order to feel "comfortable" with practicing what God has not commanded **BUT** *such will NOT give your soul the spiritual security that brings it to heaven.* The only end for those rejecting God's biblical commands is the eternal Hell.

*Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)*

**Brethren, remember these indisputable facts...you WILL hear them once again at the Judgment Day!**

- God's expectations are exclusive NOT inclusive!
- God's people are distinct NOT common!
- God's commands are specific NOT generic!
- God's reward is for compliance NOT complicity!
- God's fellowship is defined by the divine Word NOT man's tolerances!

John L. Kachelman, Jr  
Judsonia church of Christ  
P.O. Box 422  
Judsonia, Arkansas 72081

The greatest trees stand today because some "nut" held its ground!