



TC's Thoughts for Discussion

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Fully convinced for decades that I was Scripturally Conservative, I was fortunate to begin discovering (through prayerful private research and study) that my allegiance had been to Doctrinal Conservatism. I wasn't alone: Most other believers who think themselves Scripturally Conservative are also Doctrinally Conservative. Big difference. Consequential.

If you're familiar with U.S. Constitutional Conservatism, you'll find it relatively easy to grasp the concept of Scriptural Conservatism. "Relatively easy" is the operative phrase there, though. That's because Doctrinal Conservatism is based on the presumption that the doctrines of a given Denomination are foundational. "Foundational," in this context, means to be in full alignment and agreement with the original texts of the Old and New Testament scriptures...and with what Jesus and the 1st-Century Apostles taught. Your continued study will reveal, conclusively I think, that much (if not most) of what masquerades, today, as "old time religion" is actually quite new. (I plan to address that in our July 16th article.)

At least four (4) major Weapons of Mass Deception^(SM) have invaded the visible Christian church and are thriving even within the ranks of mainstream Denominational Doctrine. How and why can they continue to thrive? "In church" (In seminary if you're a clergyman) you've learned WHAT to study...to confirm Denominational Doctrine. To become Scripturally Conservative, you must start learning HOW to study...to discover the original truth of God's word. True, that'll be easier said than done. Worth your time and effort, though. Passivity hasn't worked. It won't. Your decision must be a conscious one. Here's some initial help for those who'll *really* want to learn how to do that: www.DYPK.org/how-to-study.

> "God's gift of a sound mind is a terrible thing to waste." —*yours truly*

Informed observers have concluded that our handsomely-funded U.S. public school systems wallow in the mire of miserable mediocrity – or even complete failure – largely because they teach their students WHAT to think, but not HOW to think. All this because human nature is "the sin nature." Like water after a rain, human nature predictably follows the course of least resistance. We've learned how to manage the forces of resistance to the natural flow of water to our benefit. Isn't it time that we learn to manage the resistance to the sinful flow of human nature—to the benefit of our human institutions? Wouldn't that be to the ultimate benefit of those who'll continue to blindly trust those institutions to dispense truth?

The problem is that the observable mission of the visible Christian church has, for centuries, been "to get people 'saved' and 'in church'." **The great commission has NOTHING to do with filling church buildings with Believers**, but with making Disciples of those who've heard and believed the Gospel message. Big, big differences. So who's making Disciples? Like it or not, that cannot be done from a pulpit...or from any other podium. Not convinced? Try "teaching" a group of young children how to ride bikes! It's not a "teaching" assignment, but a COACHING assignment. So where are the coaches...? And who's training the coaches...?

Keep in mind that the Thessalonian and the Berean Jews of Acts 17:11 were highly skeptical of the 1st-Century Gospel message, but their responses were remarkably different. The Bereans proved themselves to be the adults in the room. That's why Paul called them "more noble." (You may want to read that scripture in several Bible versions.) Will yours be a Berean-styled response?

> "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain

I'll help you to identify each of those four (4) Weapons of Mass Deception^(SM) as the series continues. Meanwhile, I am compelled to remind you (layman or clergy) that your resolve to intelligently resist the ongoing damage of human nature must be a conscious one. Passivity is not a viable option.

I'm in. You?

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Post a comment or question or just read what others are saying: www.DYPK.org/apps/blog.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.
 "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain

