

Four Dangerous Brothers  
11-10-13

DANGER! What kind of dangers does the church face? Persecutions and Tribulations? Perhaps we fear the political Persecutions that come when our society makes more and more immoral choices. Perhaps it is religions like Islam, which threaten us in other ways. Yet the Bible constantly tells us not to worry about such things - "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer." Revelation 2:10

Instead, the Bible says that the greatest dangers the church faces are internal, not external. They are self-originated problems; brethren causing others to stumble (Matthew 18:7); those who draw away disciples (Acts 20:30). We ought to recognize that the greatest dangers the church faces are from ourselves, and the people we can become if we do not have a Christ centered life.

Let us give name to these dangers by personifying them as four of our brothers:

Brother Vicious  
Brother Liberal  
Brother Hypocrite  
Brother Fool

Who is Brother Vicious? He is born of years of self-righteous living; he has never missed services, and believes that such makes him righteous before God. He interprets maturity as intolerance, and cannot tolerate the immaturity of other brethren. Like a shark, he attacks weakness when he sees it. He believes that rebuke cannot be gentle, and he is unfamiliar with patience. READ 2 Timothy 2:24-25

Who is Brother Liberal? Like Brother Vicious, he is too is born of self-righteousness. However, whereas Bro. Vicious sees his works as his justification, Bro. Liberal sees his knowledge as his righteousness. His spirituality grew with "deeper meats". Because of that, he preaches his own "Grace" and "Truth". He sees the congregation as "needing" his enlightenment. READ 2 Corinthians 10:12, I Corinthians 3:18-22

Who is Brother Hypocrite? He is born of a need to appear righteous, but not be righteous. We all know him; he acts differently than he preaches. Bro. Hypocrite sees it as important to look right, but once away from the church he is a different fellow. READ Matthew 21:28-31

Who is Brother Fool? He is born of spiritual laziness; he simply does not try to learn what he must do. But he still tries; he acts without knowledge. He speaks freely but knows nothing. He has not matured in his faith, despite the fact that he has had time to do so. Even so, he does not let that stop him from expressing his opinion or doing what he thinks is right. READ Colossians 4:5-6

Having a Christ centered life means we are balancing between our growth in knowledge and our growth in works. Both are necessary, but it is easy to go too far one way and not be balanced in the other. We must grow both ways! Too, we must avoid the temptation towards either apathy or self-righteousness.

We cannot underestimate the danger these Brothers pose to the church. They can easily disable weak Christians. They direct the church without authority. Ultimately, they hurt the influence of the whole church.

Don't be these brothers!

