

No, We Are Not Infallible

An oft-repeated charge against members of the church of Christ is that we seem to think that we are infallible. Herein we intend to address ourselves to the validity or invalidity of such a charge with the aim of clearing up any mistaken impressions.

First of all, a fundamental principle upon which our examination must be based is the fact that NO MAN can truthfully claim infallibility! "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Since sin and infallibility cannot co-exist, we must conclude that all men are fallible including members of the church of Christ.

Secondly, I have never known of a member of the church who has claimed infallibility. I have known some few who ACTED as if they were perfect, and perhaps a few who thought they were. But the point is this: members of the church of Christ do not generally and publicly claim to be infallible humans.

How then did the charge originate? If we do not claim to be infallible, and in view of our constant references to such passages as Rom. 3:23, why do people think we claim perfection? Consider a few possible reasons.

(1) We believe in an infallible Christ. Unlike the modernists, we believe without any doubt that Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, that He died on the cross for our sins, that He arose from the dead, and that He now serves us in heaven [as High Priest of God]. We believe what Peter declared on Pentecost when he said: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made this same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). We are also convinced that He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). Our Savior is a Perfect One!

(2) We believe in infallible authority. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He declared: "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18). Later the apostle Paul wrote that God "hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:21-23). So the authority upon which our religion is based is infallible. The blind unfounded expressions of human authority are not approved by a God who gave all authority to His Son.

(3) We believe in only one infallible way to heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). Thus it is our blessed belief that the way of Jesus is the only infallible way to glory. This means that we, with God, must reject the "many ways to heaven" concept, and do our best to encourage our religious neighbors to do the same.

No!! Members of the church of Christ are not infallible. But we believe in an infallible Savior who has by His infallible authority revealed through the New Testament the only infallible way to heaven. Some of us may fall from that way (1 Cor. 10:12), and we may not always follow the example of our perfect Savior, but we firmly believe that we "are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:10).

- by Warren Berkley

Prejudiced Against the Bible

While serving as our ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin joined a literary society. Such societies were common and numerous in France, but they were filled with infidels. Urged on by his quaint sense of humor, Mr. Franklin joined the most prominent of these societies. It was the custom of this group to have each member write an original story to be read to the society and then have the members criticize the story. Mr. Franklin copied by hand the French translation of the entire book of Ruth from the Bible.

He met with the society at the appointed time and anxiously awaited the time for him to read his story. In warm and sympathetic tones he read this great love story.

For a few minutes there was absolute silence, as the audience sat under the spell of the beautiful love story. Then some member began to applaud. When the chairman of the meeting said that it was the only perfect love story the world had ever heard, the society requested permission to print it.

Mr. Franklin then said: "This story has already been printed and given to the world. You will find it in the Bible: the book you profess to despise, but about whose contents you apparently know so little."

- by **Bob Buchanon**

'Do We Have To Go To Church?'

Most parents have either already heard this from their kids, or will hear it in the future. Seems most children go through a phase in which they question the need for faithful attendance at all of the assemblies. When this happens, what's a parent to do? Here are some suggestions:

1. Set a good example - Never let your children see you compromise your commitment to the Lord for any other thing. This means, in particular, never let them see you miss the assemblies for the activities of this world. Be careful not to allow recreational pursuits to come between you and God. If you do, you'll be teaching your kids a lesson that you don't want them to learn! Ballgames and golf, hunting and fishing, even vacations, can't begin to compare in importance to serving God. Use caution, too, in regards to your work. Too often Christians let their jobs interfere with their spiritual service. And NEVER, NEVER, NEVER let them observe you staying home simply because you "don't feel like" attending the services. In other words, be sure that you have your own priorities in order!

2. Teach them to love God - Really, there's something wrong with the "do we have to" mentality. Anything we do for God should be done out of deep and sincere love for Him. "*We love Him, because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:19). Work hard to instill this attitude in your children. Any other motivation will ultimately fail. Again, be sure that you have this attitude firmly fixed in your own mind. They are watching you, and imitating what they see!

3. Bottom line: Be sure that they are present at all the assemblies - no matter what! Kids are kids - they need to be taught. They do not naturally understand all the things that are in their own best interest. For that reason we MAKE them do some things that they don't always want to do (i.e., take baths, do homework, etc.). Learning to love and serve God is the most important lesson of all. Therefore any parent who really wants what's best for his child will make sure he's present even when that means forcing the situation a little. Keep working, of course, at developing the right attitudes in your kids - but get them here one way or the other!

Remember parents, it is your job to "...*provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lords* (Ephesians 6:4).

- by **Greg Gwin**