

WINDS OF DOCTRINE – THE SHAKING

THE ROLE OF CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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3. CATHEDRAL STATEMENT

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

God has a church. It is **not** the **great cathedral**, neither is it the **national establishment**, neither is it **the various denominations**; it is the people who **love God and keep His commandments**. “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Where Christ is, even among the humble few, this is Christ’s church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church. Where two or three are present who **love and obey the commandments of God**, Jesus there presides, let it be in the desolate place of the earth, in the wilderness, in the city, [or] enclosed in prison walls. The glory of God has penetrated the prison walls, flooding with glorious beams of heavenly light the darkest dungeon. His saints may suffer, but their sufferings will, like the apostles’ of old, spread their faith and win souls to Christ and glorify His holy name. The bitterest opposition expressed by those who hate God’s great moral standard of righteousness should not and will not shake the steadfast soul who trusts fully in God. – {17MR 81.4}

Questions to ask when studying:

Who was she speaking to?

What was the context?

When was it written?

Where was she?

Why did she write it?

How did she arrive at her final conclusion?

Principle: Read the whole context. That is the basis of coming to any conclusion.

Context is Everything — The year was 1886

MR No. 1250—Lessons From Sightseeing in Nimes; The Wilderness Temptations of Christ; Faithful Sabbath keeping Enjoined

(Written October 18, 1886, from Nimes, France, to “Dear Brother and Sister Foss.”)

Although many thousand miles separate us from you, yet we have not forgotten you. I have remembered you in my prayers many times. **It was not my choice to come to Europe, but the General Conference urged my coming so earnestly I complied.** I am not sorry I have done this, for the Lord has especially blessed me at every step. I have been sustained in a remarkable manner. I have done a great amount of labor and written many pages. I have been here two weeks, have spoken in a hall twelve times and written one hundred pages. I arise at four o'clock, and before the call to breakfast I have written from ten to fifteen pages. I have reason to praise God with heart and lips for His mercy and His sustaining grace. {17MR 75.1}

There are quite a number who have accepted the Sabbath and been **converted**, some from the **Catholics**. There are many Catholics in this city of two hundred thousand inhabitants. 17MR 75.2

In these countries where the Catholic element prevails, the people are the lowest in morals and steeped in ignorance. Sunday is to them a festival, a day for sports, for all kinds of amusements. The people attend the service in church one hour in the day, then their religious observance of the day is at an end. Stores are open all through Nimes as on any of the other days that have no sacredness in their minds attached to them. {17MR 76.1}

Summary:

1. If she did not believe in organization, why would she go against her own will to obey the GC?
2. She was in France and seeing the prevalence and influence of Catholicism and a need to expand to unreached territories
3. The statement was more geared towards Rome
4. It also says the people who love God and are Obeying His commandments? Who is that?

5. They were also there on a mission trip and she said people were converted from Catholicism? Converted to what?
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4. SELF-SUPPORTING MINISTRIES VS INDEPENDENT CHURCH

What about independent Churches?

What is an independent Church?

I know that the Lord loves **His church**. It is **not** to be **disorganized** or **broken** up into **independent atoms**. There is not the **least consistency** in this; **there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be**. Those who shall **heed** this **false message** and try to **leaven others** will be **deceived** and **prepared to receive advanced delusions, and they will come to nought**. {2SM 68.3}

No **advice** or **sanction** is given in the **Word of God** to those who **believe** the **third angel's message** to lead them to suppose that they can **draw apart**. This you may **settle** with yourselves **forever**. {3SM 21.2}

Let not the professed people of God think it a **privilege** to **separate** from **conference organization**, that they may show their supposed efficiency. **This is entirely opposed to God's order**. There is need of perfect unity and love, and this will appear when we learn of Jesus. {16LtMs, Ms 97, 1901, par. 31}

We see complete opposition to independent churches

While at the same time:

- She went to Cooranbong Australia to start Avondale School
- Also helped to start the Madison School and sat on their Board
- Lead the Educations Reforms by sending letters to Sutherland and Magan
- Lead the drive to buy land for Loma Linda, Oakwood and many more
- You will not find any direct reference to supporting, independent Church, and you will not see self -supporting Church in inspiration

What is the purpose of these Ministries? The same as the Self-Supporting School Ran by Samuel and Elijah. It was to meet the prevailing apostasy.

To meet this growing evil, God provided other agencies as an aid to parents in the work of education. {Ed 46.1}

These schools were intended to serve as a barrier against the wide-spreading corruption. {Ed 46.2}

These are called supporting organizations not new organizations. We are under one church as supporting organization to build up the church. These school were designed to train, works in light of practical labor, canvassing , bible work medical missionary work etc.

But for what purpose?

Combine medical missionary work with the proclamation of the third angel's message. Make **regular, organized** efforts to **lift the church members** out of the dead level in which they have been for years. **Send out into the churches** workers who will live the principles of health reform. Let those be sent who can see the necessity of self-denial in appetite, or they will be a snare to the church. **See if the breath of life will not then come into our churches.** A new element needs to be brought into the work. God's people must realize their great need and peril, and take up the work that lies nearest them. {6T 267.1}

These are all Present truth workers in the church

5. WHAT DOES CRYING AND SIGNING LOOK LIKE PRACTICALLY--ARE WE SIGHING AND CRYING OR SEPARATING? – EZEKIEL 9

Ezekiel – You have to be in Jerusalem

What does Ezekiel 9 look like practically?

- Are we praying for our leaders?
- Are we appealing to our leaders?

- Are we trying to meet our leaders and have conversations?
- Christ Method Mingle etc...Weep with those who weep etc

Of all the people in the world, **reformers** should be the most unselfish, the **kindest**, the most courteous, learning Christ's ways and words and works.—Letter 11, 1894. – {Ev 303.3}

Love must be the **prevailing element** in **all** our **work**. In the representation of others who do not believe as we do, every speaker must guard against making statements that will appear **severe** and like **judging**. Present the truth, and let the truth, the Holy Spirit of God, act as a reprover, as a judge; but let not your words bruise and wound the soul.... – {Ev 303.2}

Let not one rasping word be spoken. Let all sharp speeches that you are disposed to make, be kept to your individual self. Be as true as steel to principle, wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove. If your words are not to hurt anyone, you will have to speak only the words that you are sure will not be harsh and cold and severe.... Of all the people in the world, **reformers** should be the most unselfish, the **kindest**, the most courteous, learning Christ's ways and words and works.—Letter 11, 1894. – {Ev 303.3}

The Spirit of Controversy—Do not cherish a spirit of controversy. Little good is accomplished by **denunciatory speeches**. The surest way to destroy false doctrine is to preach the truth. Keep to the affirmative. Let the precious truths of the gospel kill the force of evil. Show a tender, pitiful spirit toward the erring. Come close to hearts.—Letter 190, 1902. – {Ev 304.1}

6. WHAT TO DO ABOUT CHURCH ATTENDANCE WHERE THERE IS NO PRESENT TRUTH CHURCH AROUND

- Since 2009 I have only been a part of Church plants:
- My wife and I went to the conference leaders and shared our intention
- We actively engage in ministry and train churches for mission and then raise up churches
- Not everyone has that passion or gift—Find small Church start off humble and focus on evangelism

- When we focus on the gospel commission in Matt 28 we will not have any issues with the conference
- Church plant at Red River a success with evangelism focus

What should we do? ——— God's Inspired Solutions which is Self-Supporting Work as a barrier for apostasy

We cannot now enter into any **new organization**; for this would mean **apostasy** from **the truth**. {GRC 53.2}

7. **WAS JESUS A PART OF THE SANHEDRIAN?**

- Mark 12:42-44 – Widow with two mites
- John 4 – Salvation is of the Jews
- John 2:16 – Fathers house a den of thieves

8. **HOW DO WE VIEW PROPHECY** (2 Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 21:43, Acts 13:46, This was a fulfillment of the 490) Revelation 3 – Laodicea was the last church prophesied to be messed up.

The work is soon to close. The **members** of the church **militant** who have proved faithful will **become** the church **triumphant**.—Letter 32, 1892. – {Ev 707.1}

Cancer is a rebellious cell that clusters with other cells independent of the body

Moses refused to start a new movement so did Ellen White. They cried and sighed in the church. They both knew of the apostasy. They both reigned for 80 years. They both died before the movement made it to the promised land. But they both stuck with it in the midst of prevailing apostasy.