

Concerning such as have forbidden preaching, or teaching in the name of Jesus, and such as are ashamed to confess Him before men, and call not on the name of the Lord.

By George Fox

Here you may see who, and what they were, that forbade the apostles to preach, or teach, or speak in the name of Jesus; and what Christ said of such that are ashamed to confess him before men; and what judgments come upon those families, kingdoms, or nations, that do not call upon the name of the Lord. And those who do not call upon the name of the Lord, and know him not, are such as devour Jacob, the elect and beloved of God. 'And yet the Lord pours out of his spirit upon all flesh,' that with the spirit they may know God, and call upon his name. Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-18.

The Jews and their priests said unto the apostles, and threatened them, 'that from now one you speak to no man in this name' Jesus. Acts 4:17. And they said again (4:18), to the apostles, 'that they should not teach in the name of Jesus.' And in Acts 5:28. they again said, 'that they should not teach in the name of Jesus,' mark, not to teach in the name of Jesus. And in Acts 5:40, they said again to the apostles, 'that they should not speak in the name of Jesus; mark, not so much as to speak in the name of Jesus. And yet the apostle said, 'With the heart man believes, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. And if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God has raised him up from the dead, you shall be saved.' Rom 10:9-10.

The Jews, which were the greatest outward professors, agreed, 'that if any man confessed that he was the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.' John 9:22. 'And many of the chief rulers believed on him; but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him,' namely, Christ, 'lest they should be put out of the synagogue.' John 12:42. So here were those who did believe, both rulers and others, in Christ; but they were afraid to confess Christ, lest they should be

excommunicated, or put out of their synagogue. And Christ said unto his disciples, 'Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father, which is heaven: but whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father, which is heaven.' Mat 10:32-33, Luke 12:18. So here you may see, those who do confess Christ before men, are confessed by him before his Father; and those who deny him before men, Christ will deny before his Father.

And John said, 'Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is of God; and every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is [has] come into the [their] flesh, is not of God.' 1 John 4:2-3. So here you may see that it is the good spirit of God that confesses his son to have come in the [their] flesh. Here you may see the two spirits, one which is of God, and the other which is not of God; the good spirit, and the bad spirit. 'For many deceivers have gone out into the world, who do not confess that Jesus Christ is [has] come in the [their] flesh, is a deceiver, and an antichrist,' and so not in the spirit of God nor Christ. 2 John 1:7. And the apostle said, 'Prove your own selves, do you not know yourselves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you are reprobates?' 2 Cor 13:5. And so if they have not the spirit of Christ, and if he is not in them, then they are reprobates, [tested, disqualified, and rejected] and so are none of Christ's.

And the apostle said to the Colossians, 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.' And they 'warned every man, and taught every man in all wisdom, that they might present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.' Col 1:27-28. So then Christ must be in his people, and they must be in him.

And Christ before Pontius Pilate 'witnessed a good confession.' 1 Tim 6:13. This was before his persecutor; so must all the followers of the lamb confess him before men, to the glory of God the Father, and not be ashamed of Christ, their life, light, and salvation, redeemer, mediator, prophet, bishop, shepherd, leader, counselor, way and door to God, and the author and finisher of their faith, and heavenly rock and foundation, and the captain of their salvation, and not to be ashamed to meet in his name, who has all power in heaven and in earth given to him, lest he be ashamed of you before his holy angels, and his Father, which is in heaven. And therefore, in his light, spirit, grace, truth, and faith, see and hold Christ your head, who bruises the serpent's head, and reconciles you to God, in whom you, and all nations are blessed, and have rest and peace. Amen.

'Pour out your fury upon the heathen that know you not, and upon the families that call not upon your name; for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.' Jer 10:5. These were the persecutors of the faithful.

And David said, 'Pour out your wrath upon the heathen that have not known you, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your name; for they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.' Psalm 79: 6-7. These were the persecutors of God's elect.

Yet 'God sets the poor on high from affliction, and makes him families like a flock.' Psalm 107:41.

And God 'sets the solitary in families, and brings out those which are bound with chains. But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.' Psalm 68:6.

George Fox

The 6th of the 10th month, 1684