

The Antidote for Church Stability

Galatians

Angia G. Hollins

Bi 208 Romans and Galatians

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Introduction

From the beginning of the forming of the church, it has been under attack. You may think the church only experience this from the few that are on the outside, but this isn't always the case. Sometimes the most scrutinizing comes right underneath leaders noses and sometimes it is the leaders themselves that have caused this confusion. I know that when we talk about the church we tend to think about the building, but I am referring to the many believers that come together to fellowship. I reference this because I want to make sure that we don't think this has to do with the building itself, but its more about the believers. Sometimes when we hear that the church is under attack, in any form our minds go to the building, but I want to redirect the attention to the people within the building. This is where all the chaos and confusion come from it is within the building amongst the people.

Paul himself experience this many of times and he writes about it in his epistles. He is constantly trying to correct the people that are within the synagogue. Most of the time it has everything to do with what the people have been previously taught being tainted with a different message. What would happen was the apostles would go in teach the people about their conversion in Christ, others would come saying that they had come on behalf of the apostles and start teaching a different message, contrary to the one previously spoken. Paul must go back and almost reteach the people about their salvation and how they received it in the first place. He goes on to speak with the people about how they should not turn back to the very things that have kept them bound. Paul is referring to the Mosaic law when he speaks of this issue. He goes

on to explain to the people they have been released from the law and have found freedom through Christ Jesus. Paul encounters disruption within the church at Galatia, which seems to be similar problems that arise within the church today.

The church today has encountered this matter and some of another source, consciously or subconsciously to disrupt the church and lead them astray. Paul encounter was with false teachers, but what happens when it isn't about false teachings? What happens when it comes from others leader, members or demonic forces? What do you do to help bring stability to the church? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this essay.

Scholars suggest that the area of Anatolia where Galatia is located was primarily inhabited by Romans or either Celts. In this case, Paul is speaking to the newly gentile converts that have come to Christianity. Paul is called to the gentiles goes into this area at that time, because the area was mainly populated by gentiles that had not known about the gospel of Christ. He has been called and goes to this which would have been considered as a people who were excluded from being a part of the chosen people of God. Paul tells the people about the good news of the gospel and how they have now been included in this gospel. Upon that first message, the people at Galatia accept the message, and the church of Galatians is established.

To understand Paul's passion for writing to the church you must know why this church seemed so important to Paul. Paul's importance in writing this letter to the church may have come from that this was Paul's first missionary trip. Paul may have had a personal connection

with the church because it was the very first church that Paul had established. This may have made Paul feel as though he was obligated to make sure the church was not corrupted by anything outside of what had been taught, since seeming he was the first to proclaim the gospel to the people.

The people allowed false teachers to take them back to the law that held them bound. It would have you wondering how is it this happened? What could have helped the church from being persuaded by these teachings? This may have been because of Paul and his ambition to proclaim the good news, that he forgot to mention to the people beforehand, that there would be those that may come and try to lead them away from the gospel, which he had preached. Paul explained to the people the importance of holding on to their faith after they had heard something different. Paul tells the people in (Galatians 3:1 [NIV]) You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

Paul is now looking at the people as if they had been under a spell Ironside, 160. As if they cannot break away from reverencing the law. The false teaching had seemed to make the people think that somehow it was better to keep the law. Although they wanted to share in the grace they also felt as if justification by grace wasn't enough for salvation. They had been manipulated to the point that they seemed as if they weren't strong enough to let go of the law. If Paul would have warned the people beforehand about holding onto their faith, then I think they would have been on the guard for this kind of misconception of the gospel. When we think about Jesus and his ministry we hear Jesus often warning the disciples about these things, (Matthew

24:11[NIV]) and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Before Jesus left he was sure to tell the disciples about these matters so that when they saw these things happening they would know what to do.

Sometimes we may think that a person understands as we do, and we think that somehow, they will react as we do, so we tend to leave out certain elements that may be important for their benefit. The church of today can learn much from the mistakes of the former church. They must learn how to take those mistakes and use them to educate themselves on how to keep false teaching or any other disturbance out of the church. There should be certain measures to take when it comes to handling these types of issues.

There should be a protocol that the church establishes that is in place when disruptions come in the church. There should be action taking place to inform the people about this and there should be proper protocol if a matter as stated above should go on in the church. Having a plan in place may not stop anyone from coming to cause confusion, but there will be actions to take in case.

Leaders of the church should be the first to address disruptions. They should first warn people about false teachers and people that come to the church on a mission to lead the church in another direction. As I said before the disruption doesn't have to come from the outside all the time. Sometimes it is amongst the people themselves. Sometimes it's even happening with the leaders. Leaders have been known as well to fall into the trap that causes the church to come

under attack. Some fall away under lust. Some intentions may cause them to be corrupt and lead them away from the ministry. There is miscommunication within the ministry as well. There are many more that could be named, but these are just a few but leaders should be the first ones to address these issues, and if it has something to do with a leader it should also be handled through leadership.

In conclusion, there are many different elements that can cause the chaos within the church, but how you handle each point is very critical to the stability of the church. There should be plans that are in place to handle any kind of problems, even when it comes to leaders themselves. There should also be teachings on how to discern certain false teachings or disruptions that come against the church. Every church should have something in place that deals with church disruption, and it should be communicated to all in authority positions. It may never be a problem-free plan for the church, but the church should have stability. For this to happen we must learn from the church before and apply what was learned to establishing a stable foundation.

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