

MODERN-DAY PHARISEES!

Who are they? How does one recognize them? They are probably leaders and they probably have been to 'Bible School' and received certain futuristic brainwashings but they certainly will be 'religious' people! They will be more concerned about doctrine, beliefs and programs (including 'order of services') than being the expression of God-life in the earth.

A religious person will not fully believe that God has given him the ability to have a relationship with Himself which includes hearing the voice of God from within. To fully surrender to the Holy Spirit's direction and control usually starts out to become a reality by being genuinely teachable; God's will is then accomplished in His way at His timing.

A religious person will be involved with lots of activity in 'programs and revivals' before being quiet and allowing God to speak and *change him from glory to glory into His image* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

BELIEVE THE SAME WAY!

To really enjoy CLOSE fellowship with the modern-day Pharisees, you will have to believe the same way usually spelled out in their '*Constitution*' or '*Statement of Faith*' which you must adhere to in order to become a member. That will last until you change — through God releasing His Spirit bringing you revelation and truth to your hungry heart. If that happens *they* will crowd you out probably labelling you as 'deceived', 'backslidden' or 'false prophet'! Just like the Pharisees of old everything is checked by the 'letter-word' of scripture and spirit-word revelation is not often known!

This type of Pharisee-fellowship will endeavour to **MANIPULATE, DOMINATE and/or INTIMIDATE** its members for the furtherance of itself. They actually find it very difficult **not** to do these three things. They will plead with such expressions as . . . "*Couldn't you possibly help*" . . . "*don't forget to support these special meetings*" . . . "*now we have a financial need*" . . . "*what is your gifting? — for this or that department needs you*" . . . and so on. They will impose upon the members the 'law/curse of tithing, appearance, meeting format, letter-word understandings (so called) of scripture and anything else that will establish their [position and place a fear upon any who would deign to leave. No wonder Jesus had 'a problem' with those 'pattern' Pharisees of His day! Times haven't really changed much, have they?

As this scenario is allowed to progress unchecked by the Lord, we will see . . .

MOTHER-CHURCH become a one-parent family?

Father-God has brought forth new life through the Mother-Church (Galations 4:26) . . . it happens each time there is one who has been '*born again*'. The family increases in number **and that is wonderful**. Mother has the charge from Father to nurture and teach the foundations that these children will need in order to grow and walk in the spirit-realm, but so often God's children are kept in 'kindergarten'.

Mother should care for these children until they come to the age of '12' in the spirit . . . just like Mary did for Jesus in His growing up years. He was still in Jerusalem (picturing the Church ... the 'Mother' of us all) but experiencing a development in His relationship with His father and mother.

For us, '*Bar-Mitzvah*' equates with *the baptism in the Holy Spirit* . . . when the mind of Christ, received at birth, is released and an inbuilt desire to do Father's will above all else rises up to be paramount. In passing, the '*tongues*'

consist of words of a spiritual language which are released *from the mind of Christ* which each child of God has (I Cor. 2:16). It is expected that every child will grow up and develop, and to see this happen, each will need to come under Father's direct care. At the '*bar-mitzvah*' ceremony, the child is handed over by the mother to the father. Jesus was handed over to His natural 'father', Joseph, for training in the carpenter's shop. Jesus saw further than that.

MOTHER'S BUSINESS or FATHER'S BUSINESS?

Mother-Church's mandate and vision from Father is a 'stepping-stone' to when one matures or is advanced to be about Father's business. To each one given into her care, she should be teaching respect to Father's wishes as to where He places His emphasis and also to the way in which He desires 'things' to be done. For the most part Mother-Church has done a great job of birthing the new life and nurturing those young ones and grounding them in the basics of their new found faith. Mother-Church has Father's DELEGATED AUTHORITY to successfully carry out His desires. The '*babes-in-Christ*' are to be gradually weaned as they gain assurance and understanding. All provision for their well-being is given which will meet the growing needs in spirit, mind and body. All this maturing is needful in the preparation of relating to Father's will and hearing His voice. Jesus, our example or pattern, declared from that point on, He was to be about His heavenly Father's business. Jesus is the Pattern-Son for all present hungry believers to follow.

A ONE-PARENT FAMILY!

Today, it is not quite the same. Due to a shortfall in the relationship between the Mother-Church and the Father, she hangs on to 'her children' . . . keeping them '*tied to her apron strings*' with repetitive juvenile teachings and lack of development in the gifts and the things of the Spirit — 'she' then operates as a *one-parent family!* Instead of moving under Father's direct control and care, these children of such a 'family' become spiritually stunted in their growth.

The children's covering was the Mother . . . but now these maturing ones should have 'the anointing of Christ' as their covering. Mother expresses much fear when some of her children who have started to grow up and move out to be under Father. This is because they have not had the correct foundation laid in their earlier lives. Father is always there for He said that **He** would build His Church and that they would be strong so that even the gates of hell could not stand against these ones. He is desirous of seeing His children *grow up into Him in all things*. (Ephesians 4:15) and ultimately come forth in His image and likeness . . . His original plan!

As in a natural family, when one grows up there comes a time when that young man or woman will 'leave home'. The same in the spirit... one's diet must go beyond 'spiritual *Pablum*** and growth can not be stifled. When one has been in close fellowship with folks for (sometimes) many years and you have come to love them dearly ... like a true family, it can be very hard to leave them and stand strong in the unfolding way God is opening up for you. Remember *each one still remains a part of Father's one great family* ... for their is only ONE CHURCH. Ephesians 4:4 ... *There is one body* (Church) *and one spirit* (Leader) *even as you are called to one hope* (to come forth in His fullness) *of your calling; one Lord* (Supreme Commander), *one faith* (Christ's), *one baptism* (in the Spirit patterned by water baptism) *and one God and Father of all* (not three!), *who is above all and through all and in you all*. Isaiah 28:20 ... *For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it*. The Church-bed doesn't change but **the man** continues to grow! The 'covering' in Church circles is the 'ministry' and they too do not change! So let us *cut the apron strings* and move in Father's business while maintaining family ties. God bless you.§

** *Pablum* depicts powdered infant food that is easy to prepare and serve but does not have too much nourishment!