

REDEFINING TERMS

Michael Pickford

Mom (via text message): *Your great-aunt just passed away. LOL.*

Son: *Why is that funny?*

Mom: *It's not funny, David! What do you mean?*


Son: *Mom, LOL means LAUGHING OUT LOUD.*

Mom: *I thought it meant LOTS OF LOVE. I have to text everyone back.*

While the above scenario is certain to tickle our funny bones, redefining and misunderstanding the words God uses in the Bible is no laughing matter.

Some have redefined the word "Baptism" to mean sprinkling or pouring. Greek scholars tell us that the word means to dip, to plunge, to overwhelm. But, we don't really need the Greek definitions. Colossians 2:12 clearly defines it as a "Burial." This fact is exemplified through Philip and the Eunuch when they both "went down into the water" so The Eunuch could be "Baptized" (Acts 8:38-39).

Folks have also redefined "Singing" to mean "Playing." As a result men have brought mechanical instruments of music into the assemblies to use for worship. Historically, this is still a very new innovation of men. God said, "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..." (Ephesians 5:19). Whatever psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are, we are to be "speaking" them to one another, not playing them to one another.


Twisting scripture leads to destruction; let's understand God's words properly lest we be led astray by unauthorized spiritual practices (2 Peter 3:16-18). 

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Monday of each month at 7 pm.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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FANCY RELIGIOUS TITLES

Michael Pickford


Sometimes I'll receive mail addressed to, "Dear Reverend..." I'm sometimes referred to as "Pastor" by those in the world. These are well-meaning people who want to show respect. Addressing preachers with these titles is considered common courtesy. While I appreciate that some want to show respect to those who preach the Gospel, folks need to learn that using man-made religious titles is actually condemned by the Lord....

Jesus said, *"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; For One is your teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your teacher, the Christ."* (Matthew 23:8-10).

Jesus was speaking in the religious sense here. For example, He did not intend to condemn a child calling his biological father "father." He meant that we aren't to refer to our religious teachers and preachers with such titles as "Father," like they do in Catholicism.

While Catholicism has created several titles for their various leaders that tend to separate between the brethren (clergy/laity) and violate the Lord's teaching above, they are not the only ones guilty of such. Protestant churches (and even the Lord's church) have their share of man-made religious titles such as "Reverend," "Pastor," "Doctor," etc. Men who accept these titles are guilty of pride based on the Lord's teaching in the above context (Matthew 23:11-12). The Lord said, "You are all brethren." (vs 8b). Let's not place wedges between ourselves with religious titles.

I am an evangelist (Gospel Preacher) in the descriptive sense. "Evangelist" is not to be my "Title" for one to address me with. "Hello, Evangelist Mike," "Good morning, Evangelist Mike," etc. So, even biblical terms can be abused when they are used in unbiblical ways. Just call me Mike, we are all brethren.

Does this mean there shouldn't be a certain level of respect for preachers, elders, and deacons (Philippians 1:1-2)? No. These leaders should be respected for the work they do (1 Ths 5:12-13; 1 Cor. 16:10-11). But, let's not take it too far by addressing them with titles that the Lord never intended. 

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

“I’M OFFENDED!”

David Eldridge

“I’m offended!” It is hard to count how many times I have heard someone say these words in a religious context. There are those who will say that they are offended at any number of things. Though motives behind making this statement may vary, it is a Biblical subject and worthy of our attention. Let us consider what it means to be offended.

The Word Offense Defined. A secular definition of offense is, in part, “the act of displeasing or affronting” (Merriam Webster Dictionary). Many accept this definition in religious matters. If something just doesn’t set right with them or slightly displeases them, they say they are “offended.” However, the Biblical definition is much different. It is a “Stumbling block...(and) causes one to fall by the way...something which leads others into error and sin” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary). A true offense is that which will either cause or lead others to sin – it is not merely something you don’t like!

When “I’m Offended” is Improperly Used. It is a misuse of the term offended to speak of something which might simply displease you. Many use the statement “I’m offended” to get their way or to control the actions of others. They say they are “offended” by lawful expediencies and matters of opinion about which no one could be truly offended. I even heard of a man say he was “offended” by the color of paint a congregation was going to use in their new building. We must consider the feelings of others in all that we do, but not to the point at which we fail to do good things altogether, against which there is no reasonable argument. However, many brethren will abruptly halt even good, necessary action at the mere mention of the words, “I’m offended.” One should never try, or be allowed, to impede or control others and their actions by saying, “I’m offended,” when such could not truly be the case.

When “I’m Offended” is Properly Used. To be truly offended by something, that thing must be either against your conscience (in that by participating you will be sinning), scripturally wrong, or an occasion for sinning. If something truly will make our brother stumble, we need to have Paul’s attitude found in 1 Corinthians 8:13. He said, “Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.” We must be concerned with our actions, both congregationally and individually, and how they affect others. To say something offends you should not be said lightly. If you are truly offended by something, in a strict Biblical way, you should say so. However, one should not use this statement in a casual way so as to simply get their way or stop something that is not wrong but just merely displeases them. -

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: Proverbs 15:8-14
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....Mike Pickford
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

Thank You For Serving!

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

***Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!***