

Starting Outside God's Word is not Neutral

Psalms 119:05 ; Proverbs 4:18

Our parents are certainly stewards for our well-being and growth into adulthood, but we must always remember that every course of action, statement, and thought in our life is first and foremost said and done under the headship of our Heavenly Father. We first answer to God whether we want to accept that or not, and if we don't accept it now, one day we will. The ultimate fatherhood authority for our life is our Father in heaven and no one else. Our earthly fathers, just like us, come under that authority, and there are grave consequences for rejecting the authority of our Heavenly Father. The consequences are far greater than anything we can dish out as earthly fathers.

The point to be made in all of this discussion is that an acceptance of God and the claims of His Word means that it is illogical to commence any research on any matter until you first accept God as the first and final authority in relation to it. We therefore must start with Scripture and see all there is to see through the great viewing glass that is God's Word. This should be every Christian's great presupposition. Our axiomatic basis is that God's Word is our authoritative starting point for all matters. Too many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have started with what they call a neutral position and placed man as the authority and then attempted to fit man's authority into the Bible. Every human being, at some stage, is somewhat guilty of idolatry, and this is another form. That mankind's "neutral" interpretation of evidence can be the starting point prior to God's Word can only be described as a form of idolatry. There is no such thing as neutrality. There is only the worshiping of ourselves over our Creator and putting our authority above His.

In the 1950s Charles Templeton was voted as one of the "best used by God" for the evangelical movement of the time. He was a prominent, evangelist and for a time surpassed even a young Billy Graham. But written records of his discussions with Billy Graham show Charles Templeton had been rejecting God's authority in Genesis in favor of fallible human belief systems. Rather than looking at the evidence through a biblical bias, Templeton fell for the anti-God neutral approach to this physical world, and soon found himself questioning every portion of Scripture, including the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Templeton was given over to the theories of this world, and eventually Satan's kingdom stamped authority on Templeton's life. Sadly, he died an atheist.

Charles Templeton never really accepted the Father's authority. He lived among people who did and even taught the gospel through which many came to salvation in the Lord Jesus. Sadly, as Charles spiraled further and further into the acceptance of man's authority over God's, he became not only removed from his Christian roots and thinking, he became part of the mainstream rejection of God that we see in the world. This may sound somewhat crass, yet in all respects, Charles Templeton showed himself as just another pagan.

Every time I hear the Charles Templeton story, it saddens me. It really does. When you can see so clearly how a presupposition of God's authority, biblical authority, makes so much sense of the physical world around us, you just become saddened by anyone who wants to compromise that. For Charles Templeton, it wasn't just origins. His position of allowing man's fallible interpretation of evidence to infiltrate God's authoritative Word consistently flowed in that manner through to a denial of the gospel and Jesus Christ.

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