

## NO RULES, JUST RELATIONSHIP

Submitted by Jeff Faull

### It does not mean we need to "compromise" truth for the sake of "agreement".

What if there was a huge nationwide controversy over traffic laws? What if some special interest groups lobbied congress to make the speed limit 100-mph? Or better yet, to get rid of all traffic rules and laws? No stop signs, no one-way streets, no right of ways, no designated lanes, no speed limits, no merging process, no school zones, no laws against reckless driving, no parking restrictions, no established and accepted traffic patterns and no cops...no nothing.



And let's say that this argument caused deep division among the people of the United States. "After all, we are Americans and we have a right to drive as we please. Besides its loving America that matters not all these rules of law. The important thing is that we love America. If we all just love America everything will work itself out."

Does that make sense? Would it be the right thing to do to agree to the changes so that we could all get along? Would you smile and say, "Our relationship is more important to me than some silly stop light or traffic rule?"

That's what some people do spiritually. No rules, just relationship. As long as you say you love Jesus everything's okay...other than that you can customize your own belief system and even the "Jesus thing" might be up for grabs eventually. After all we don't want to seem too narrow-minded, bigoted, sectarian, mean spirited or intolerant.

**I Timothy 6:3-5**, "3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and

disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."

The Holy Spirit says through Scripture that the Church is to be the pillar and support of the truth. He says we are to contend earnestly for the faith. He says we are to guard what has been entrusted to us. He says we are to watch out for false teaching. He says we are to hold fast the word of life and stand firm. He says we are to reject teaching and teachers that contradict the simple truth of the gospel. He says we are to test everything.

One of the primary purposes of the letters in the New Testament is to correct false teaching...to draw some lines...and keep us on track as Christians. Truth and doctrine matter...more than we know.

### It does not mean we need to "force" everyone to "agree with us".

I once heard Don DeWelt say, "I considered writing a book entitled 'Agree with me or go to hell' and then I realized that God had already written a book by that title and He has His copyrighted."

Further he said, "We say we have the truth but everyone who has the 66 books of the Bible has the truth...the question is what do you do with it?"

If we try to force everyone to agree with us we are like the radical Islam extremists who are pledged to kill the infidels.

### It does not mean some false form of "tolerance".

One preacher told of a guy who wanted to solicit monies from the church. He claimed to be a missionary. "What group do you belong to?" "I am a member of the invisible church universal." "Who is the preacher, where do you meet?" "We are a part of the universal priesthood of believers and we meet everywhere!" "What do you call yourself?" The so-called missionary replied; "Ours is the true church; yours is the false church."

That preacher wisely replied: "Here are some invisible donations to help support your invisible church."

Fox News had an article entitled, "Americans: My Faith Isn't the Only Way to Heaven." The opening line said, ***"America remains a nation of believers, but a new survey finds most Americans don't feel their religion is the only way to eternal life — even if their faith tradition teaches otherwise." 70% of the 35,000 adults surveyed believed that many religions can lead to eternal life."***

68% percent said there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their own religion. Fewer Christians still hold strongly to Jesus' claim that He is the only way to eternal life.

Many of you read the results of that massive survey on American religion that was released just this week. Listen to some of the quotes I lifted from the coverage of that survey.

"Church shoppers are not so concerned about what a particular church believes and teaches. They are more concerned about the experience they have at the church."

Michael Lindsay, a Rice University sociologist of religion observes, "Religion in America is, indeed, 3,000 miles wide and only three inches deep."

Tom Reese of Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University explains, "Some people are like butterflies that go from flower to flower, going from religion to religion — and frankly they don't get that deep into any of them."

Is this really the basis for true unity? Is there oneness when we say, "Believe whatever you want because there is no one truth for all that we can be sure of?" To the contrary, God makes it clear that there is a foundation for oneness.