

## The Shepherd's Letter

Written to the Bishop . . . . 11-12-07

**(The day after the Bishop's Response to the Shepherd's Article)**

Thanks again for taking so much time to discuss my article. The only regret that I have after listening to your counterpoints is that I did not send you the article directly earlier. I take responsibility for that error in judgment and can only say that I was more concerned about the spread of division amongst my own assembly and other Christians than I was about refuting you personally. I ask your forgiveness in this.

I would like to continue a discussion without the heat and publicity of a public forum. After listening to almost 2.5 hours of refutation last night, I have to tell you that I just did not have the heart to continue to drag this issue out further. I have no ego regarding this, so I was not offended personally, just very sad, tired, and disappointed over the spectacle. I decided it would be more profitable for me to actually teach on this subject, rather than spend the time reacting against your accusations. While you make some good points, there are a number of errors in your argument. But I did not see the profit in publicly creating more strife and dissension amongst members of the Body of Christ. I do not know everyone present but believe there were brethren who did not need to see two local church leaders "go at it."

I am still very confused about how you can continue to fellowship with those you think are "two-faced", "forked-tongue", and perverters of the Scriptures. Of course I am talking about myself and those who use the title "pastor." I think you should spend some time listening to your own message last night and thinking about this point. You chose to use this issue as a litmus test for deciding who believes the Word of God and who doesn't. I don't believe you can let yourself off the hook by dismissing your words by saying "that's just the way I preach." By using these terms, you are saying that those who use this title are not Bible believers. Again, I think you should think carefully about whether you would fellowship with those who don't believe the Bible. I wouldn't, and I believe the Scriptures are very clear as well (Rom 16:17) regarding this. Of course, I don't take this view and am open to fellowship with those who teach sound doctrine and use Bishop or Pastor because I see it as a matter of liberty, not a test of faith in God's Word.

I know you will be posting your refutation to my article. I however will not be posting my refutation to your teaching. I will send it directly to you. I believe you have chosen the wrong sword to fall on when it comes to faith in the Scriptures. While I have no problem with sound teaching on the subject (which I will be doing in the near future), I believe your methods and challenges have the potential for causing more unnecessary division in the Body of Christ. This is something you will have to answer for at the Judgment Seat of Christ. I will answer for my use of the term "Pastor" if the Lord sees this as an issue. I ask that you reconsider whether this is an issue you want to use to cause more division in the Body.

I have included two people from my church that were present last night because I wanted to make it clear to them as well as where I stand when the spot light is off. I look forward to our correspondence.

A Fellow Servant of Our Lord,

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_