

TO: The Deacons of Victory Baptist  
Bros. Tim Butler and Rickman Jackson  
FROM: Mark Fitzhenry  
Date: September 25, 2006

Dear Deacons and Bros. Butler and Jackson:

I am in receipt of your certified letter dated May 8, 2006. I thought it prudent to delay my response to your letter. I was invited to attend Victory Baptist by one of its members. I appreciate your frank expressions regarding the fact that I am not welcome. Let me assure you that I have no desire to visit an organization where I am not welcome.

The purpose of this letter is to seek to meet with you gentlemen about any fault, error, or offense you may have against me pursuant Christ's commands in Matthew 5:23, 24. Since your letter gave no specifics, I do not know how to right any alleged wrong. Gentlemen, God is the only One not required (Job 33:13) to answer questions regarding His actions: "...*mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned...*" Even the man in I Corinthians censured for adultery with his father's wife was told what his offense was, as was Peter in Galatians 2. Both men were restored. Based upon Galatians 6:1, it would seem that servants of God, seeking the restoration of "*a man overtaken in a fault,*" would reveal the fault, allow examination of the witnesses, and hear his side of the story before executing judgment.

Proverbs 18:17 indicates that the best way of determining the truthfulness of a witnesses testimony is through examination: "*He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.*" Surely your treatment of me does not reflect the way you, your members, and your religious colleagues want to be treated. Christ commands: "*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself...*" (Mk. 12:31). In the 45 years I have been a Christian, I have found that every story has (at least) two sides. God certainly knew this when He commanded: "*Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's...*" (Dt. 1:17). Gentlemen, Christ, the Great Judge, warns, "*For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again*" (Mt. 7:2).

In Ephesians 5:21, we are commanded to "[submit] yourselves one to another in the fear of God." I am willing to submit myself to any group of honest, ethical, just, brethren motivated by a thirst for truth and impartial, godly judgment: "*Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.*" Where just, honest brethren find that I have failed to be *salt* and *light* – by the clear testimonies of Scripture and the truthful testimonies of your witnesses - I stand ready to repent. (James 5:16)

Christ observed in John 3:20, 21, "*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*" I trust that you and your witnesses will come with me to the *light*, seek the truth, and "*Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*"

Mark Fitzhenry

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