

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 4)

I. Does Mark 9:38-41 Condone Denominationalism?

- A. Some have contended that this passage authorizes denominationalism.
- B. First, to affirm that Jesus is throwing his support to a divided Christianity, teaching different doctrines violates clear New Testament teaching (John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25; Ephesians 4:4).
- C. The expression, “Does not follow us” is not to be understood as “Does not believe what we believe.”
- D. Rather, John was being “sectarian,” rejecting genuine disciples of Jesus simply because they weren’t apostles.
- E. They were genuine disciples, just not apostles.
- F. Compare (Numbers 11:25-29).

II. Can a Christian Be Forgiven of Fornication and Adultery?

- A. Yes!
- B. (1 Corinthians 6:9).
- C. (1 Corinthians 5:1 & 2 Corinthians 2:6-8).
- D. However, be warned that adultery is a sin that is painfully consequential.
 - 1. (Matthew 19:9).
 - 2. Forgiveness does not remove consequences.
- E. (Proverbs 13:15).

III. How Much Power Does Satan Have?

- A. Is Satan all-knowing?
 - 1. No.
 - 2. (Job 1:9-11).
 - 3. Consider the implications of the cross.
- B. Is Satan all-powerful?
 - 1. No.
 - 2. (Job 1:12).
 - 3. (James 4:7-8).
- C. Is Satan Everywhere?
 - 1. No.
 - 2. (Job 1:6).
 - 3. (Matthew 4:11).
 - 4. (1 Peter 5:8).
 - 5. While it is true that these types of statements are often anthropomorphic and apply to God. But in the case of God, we know they are anthropomorphic because we have passages that explicitly state that God is everywhere (Psalm 139), but such is never said of Satan.

IV. Can I Really Do All Things Through Christ?

- A. (Philippians 4:13).
- B. This is one of the most misapplied passages in the Bible.
- C. It begs to be slapped on a T-shirt, but it doesn't mean what most people think it means.
- D. Usually, this is a motivational slogan for athletes, students, job-seekers, and the sick.
- E. However, should not experience, itself, teach us that this passage has been misinterpreted?
- F. Actually, this passage is not victory but suffering..
- G. Consider the context (Philippians 4:10-14).
- H. Paul was saying that having Jesus is enough to be content and enough to manage suffering.