

What About ... Drawing a Line?

BY REBECCA S. MAY

The church lives so close to the world now, that you can hardly notice the difference between a pagan and a child of God. Christians participate in the Buddhist practice of yoga (1 Corinthians 10:14). Christians fellowship with so-called “believers” whose lives are riddled with unrepentant sin (1 Corinthians 5:11). Christians sit under the authority of false teachers, all the while hoping that it has no effect on their relationship with God (2 Peter 2:11). But what can we do? Where do we draw the line, or do we have to?

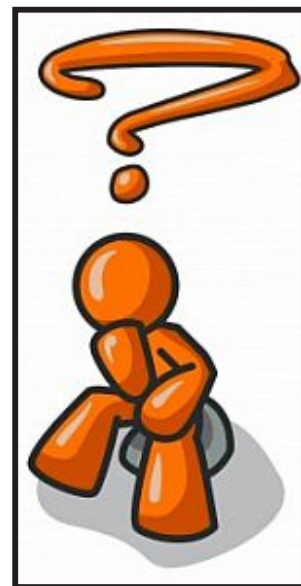
God called on His followers and continues to plead with His children to “draw a line,” that is, to separate themselves from the practices of the world (Titus 2:12). God told Moses, *make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses* (Leviticus 10:9-11). The word “distinction,” here, means “to divide” or “to separate.”

Most “Christians” today want to blur the line between Christ and the world. God wants a perpetual distinction between the holy and the profane. *What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what*

agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God...Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord (2 Corinthians 6:15-17).

After God conquered the Promised Land through Joshua, he encouraged Israel to draw a line, saying, *“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”* (Joshua 24:15). There was no going in between the Lord and the gods of the Amorites, just as there should be no going in between the Lord and false apostles within Christianity today. Joshua said to draw a line between yourselves and the gods beyond the River. So we should draw a line between ourselves and the gods of yoga.

When Israel wanted to continue to participate in the worship practices of the Canaanites, *Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him”* (1 Kings 18:21). God does not tolerate ignoring the line. He wants to establish it clearly and firmly so that those who do not fall on His side of the line are obviously not His.



The apostles were not simply preaching commitment to Christ, they were teaching the rejection of Judaism. There was no legitimate cross-over or combination of those faiths, *if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly* (Galatians 2:21). The apostles were drawing a line and asking their followers to stand with them on their side of the line. When Peter participated in the practices of Judaism, *some believers joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away. But when I [Paul] saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel..., I opposed him [Peter] to his face, because he stood condemned* (Galatians 2:11, 13-14). There was to be a clear line, a straightforward distinction between Christianity and Judaism, as Paul reminded Peter.

God warned the Laodiceans concerning their unwillingness to stand with Him on His side of the line. *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth* (Revelation 3:15-16). Do you have to draw a line? Moses said, “separate,” Joshua said, “choose,” Elijah said, “How long will you hesitate?”, John wrote, “be hot or be cold.” According to the Rylie, “The lukewarm or neutral or compromising or accommodating church is repulsive to the Lord and damaging to His purpose.”