

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

---

**On February 12, 2014, we had the following email exchange in connection with Question and Response 2/8/14:**

“Thank your very much for your reply. I agree 100 % with your feedback when it comes how to deal with fellow man vs. the memorial. My follow up question is how should we deal with ourselves?

“Let's say that we as individuals feel strongly touched by the message of sonship but at the same time find ourselves in life situations, that by the letters of Paul, in one way or the other, is depicted as reasons for being excluded from the kingdom of the heavens. Shall we as individuals take a personal responsibility to set things straight *before* we attend or even participate at the memorial, or can this very event be considered as step in the process of fully adopting the mind of Christ?

### **Our Response:**

Thank you for this email. We want you to know that your emails to us are held in strict confidentiality. We do not and will not divulge any personal identifiable information about our visitors. Additionally, you will find that our responses are more in line with what one would expect from the Christ than what one would expect from the apostles, even Paul. That is because we are not ‘congregators’ (we are not establishing congregations) so we have no need to decide who is and who is not ‘good association.’ This ministry is truly spirit directed – by the Spirit of Truth, the representative of the glorified Christ. We are not saying these things to brag or boast, but to assure you of our utmost concern for your spiritual well being. We are solely concerned with the spiritual growth of our brothers and their developing a strong personal relationship with the Father.

Having said that, we perceive that your question has a specific subject matter in mind. If so, please feel free to be open and frank so that we can provide the best spiritual direction and advice as possible. This ministry is largely driven by the questions we receive from our visitors. If certain questions are not asked, it may be some time before those issues will be addressed here. So again, please feel free to be open with us.

Of course, if we are mistaken, and you are simply seeking general information, we will provide a general response on our site. Before we do so, please let us know if there is something in particular you are inquiring about.

### **The reply from our Brother:**

“Thanks for your reply. I think it's great that you don't have intentions to be congregators, neither do I. Well aware of that, some of us are more or less traumatized by earlier spiritual abuse. Make no mistake I'm not asking for "go or not go", rather guidelines of how to think and reason in the matter. "Congregators" and not the least experiences of Jehovah's Witnesses have affected our thinking and attitudes for good and for bad. Some of us, which you also have highlighted in your articles, almost lost faith in God and Jesus due to the aftermath when leaving the congregation. Your website has a strong impact. The idea of getting rebooted spiritually or rather getting charged with the spirit of truth, based on the plain and simple teaching of Christ, for the first time in life is indeed refreshing.

“However the thought of participating at the Memorial takes some time to digest due to the doctrine of the selected few of 144 000. Further the illustrations laid out by Paul of being "united in the body of Christ" or integrated in the "temple of Christ" is thought-provoking and Galatians 5 makes me uncertain of how to think.

“I have open discussions of celebrating the Memorial with some friends who also belonged to my former congregation. One question discussed is if we as individuals, provided we know that we don't meet the admonitions of Paul, have do the homework of setting our life straight before we have a share in the Memorial even if we feel touched by the message of son-ship?

“To be frank: We are talking about an individual who is in the process of divorce and has entered in a new relationship. Another is concerned about his struggle with addiction to alcohol. Of course we can always turn to Galatians 5 and refer to the fruits of the spirit and the works of the flesh and consider "case closed." But again I'm not asking for "go or not go" but rather guidelines of how to think and reason in the matter. Keep up your good work.”

### **Our Response:**

Dear brother, never let your current situation prevent you from having a sharing with Christ. And never, ever, prevent anyone else from having such a share. No matter where one stands on the scale of 'righteous conduct,' all are obligated to 'eat and drink of the Son of man' or we will have no life in ourselves, we will not be in union with Christ, and we will not be resurrected. (*John 6:53-56*) This is our primary priority. Without it, no amount of 'righteous conduct' will save us.

We suspect that some will have in mind the counsel from Paul:

“Consequently **whoever eats the loaf or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will be guilty respecting the body and the blood of the Lord.** First let a man approve himself after scrutiny, and thus let him eat of the loaf and drink of the cup. For he that eats and drinks eats and drinks judgment against himself if he does not discern the body.” – *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*

But this counsel has to do with how we approach the Memorial Supper, not with our personal conduct. (See the article **Eating and Drinking Worthily.**) The fact is that we all commit sins of some kind. It is the nature of living in fleshly bodies. As you contemplate the matters described in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Galatians, you will note that being jealous or having angry outbursts are condemned right along side sexual immorality and drunkenness. Yet, we doubt anyone would turn away from the Memorial Supper because they struggle with jealousy.

We should, of course, all strive to do the Father's will 'to be perfect as He is perfect' (*Matthew 5:48*), by doing the best and right thing under the circumstances. We should never cease in this endeavor. But neither should we allow our failings to prevent us from the one thing that will give us the opportunity to truly be washed forever clean in the Kingdom of the Heavens. All of the guilt and shame that accompanies our shortcomings can be eased by heeding the Master's call to take his yoke and place it upon ourselves, knowing that in the heavenly ascent, we will climb to perfection as Christ Jesus completes his ministry as the 'Chief Agent and perfecter of our faith.' (*Hebrews 12:2*)

Everlasting life is dependent upon us choosing to do the Father's will, as demonstrated and taught by Jesus of Nazareth. When our hearts desire God, our soul knows God, and our mind believes God, then our survival is assured. That is the meaning of the 'first and greatest commandment.' (*Matthew 22:37-38*) So, limitations of intellect, education, culture, social and economic status, even a failure to live up to human standards of morality, as a result of the unfortunate lack of advantages or genetic mishaps, cannot invalidate the future of believing individuals.

Our challenge in the flesh is to keep hoping, keep knocking, and keep seeking knowledge, understanding, wisdom and faith, and 'love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves.' In so doing, we fulfill all divine requirements on this side of the real life which can give us the moral strength to conform our conduct and make our minds over to the best of our ability so as to foster good relationships with one another.

And we should never forget, minimize or underestimate the infinite love of the Father and its expression through Christ Jesus. Really, brother, the bar is low. The yoke is kindly and the load is light. (*Matthew 11:30*) So, have faith. Love God and your brothers. Confess union with the Christ. And live.

*“Elaia Luchnia”*

---