

The Language of Ashdod

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Introduction: Our language often gives us away!

- A. Those who had been with Jesus spoke and acted in a way to reveal it!
(Acts 4:13)
 - 1. When we submit our lives to Him we will change how we speak and act.
(Col 4:6; Titus 2:8)
 - 2. How are we with Jesus today? He is with us when we let His word become a part of us.
- B. Jesus cannot influence us until we make Him lord of our lives. (Lk 6:46)
 - 1. We recognize His authority over all things. (Mt 28:18-20)
 - 2. We speak only as the oracles of God. (1 Pt 4:11)
 - 3. When we respect God's word we will be careful how we deal with divine things.

I. Israel's Problems with the Language of Ashdod

- A. They had disobeyed God and intermarried with idolatrous pagans.
(Neh 13:23-27)
 - 1. Who you marry has a great effect upon your children.
 - 2. God gave this law for their good but the worldly mind could not see past the immediate. (Deut 6:24)
 - 3. When the children forget God the nation is in danger of losing its identity and relationship with God.
- B. We too can lose our identity by drifting from the word of God. (Heb 2:1)
 - 1. Our unity is based upon the word of God, not the opinions of men.
(1 Cor 1:10; Jn 17:20-21)
 - 2. What does our language say about us!
 - 3. God has given us a precise revelation. Let us be careful. (1 Cor 2:13)
 - 4. If you allow a teacher to change the meaning of one word, they can prove anything! (1 Tim 6:3-4)
- C. When God sought to scatter the people building the tower of Babel, what did He do?
 - 1. They had such a unity that great evil could be accomplished. (Gen 11:6)
 - 2. God changed their language so that they were scattered! (Gen 11:7-8)
 - 3. In most realms there is precise language that must be used in order for men to work together. (Ex. Volt, Watt, inch, meter, pound)
 - 4. It is no different in religion.

II. Examples of Unsound Language

- A. In the denominational world.
 - 1. **This is my "pastor."** (Eph 4:11-12; Acts 20:28)
 - a. What are the qualifications? (Titus 1)
 - b. How many should there be? (Acts 14:23)

2. **Clergy-laity distinction**
 - a. Did God make such a distinction? (**Mt 23:8-12**)
 - b. Why do men exalt preachers? (**1 Cor 4:6**)
 3. **Ordained preacher**
 - a. All Christians are ordained and called. (**2 Thess 2:14**)
 - b. We must not submit to the requirements of men.
 4. **Witness for Christ**
 - a. What does the Bible say? (**Acts 1:8; 2:32**)
 - b. We cannot be witnesses in this sense.
 5. **Receiving Christ by prayer.**
 - a. Does the Bible teach this? (**Acts 9:3-11; 22:12-16**)
 - b. Where did this doctrine come from?
- B. Errors by brethren
1. **Fellowship Hall - (1 Cor 1:9; 1 Jn 1:1-4)**
 2. **Prayer Partners - (Jas 5:16)**
 3. **Youth, Campus, Bus Minister, and Associate Preacher.**
 4. **"Church of Christ" preacher, church, doctrine ... (Rom 16:16)**
 5. **Sponsoring Church - (1 Pt 5:2)**
 6. **Re-baptism - (Rom 6:3)**

III. What should I do?

- A. Learn the place of Bible authority. (**Col 3:17; Jn 8:28**)
 1. Learn how to study the Bible.
 2. Only teach that which is clearly authorized!
- B. Be diligent to define words in their Bible setting.
 1. Many times a false teacher will use a word that sounds innocent to you, but in fact he has placed an unbiblical meaning on it which in turn established a false religious system.
 2. A good example of this is in Calvinism where a new definition of sin is given. How can sin be inherited? (**Ezk 18:20; 1 Jn 3:4**)
 3. The Boston movement does this with the term disciple.
 4. Do you know how to look up Bible words?

Conclusion: Let us become closely acquainted with God's word.

- A. However this may limit us it will be for our good!
- B. What if we go beyond what God has said? (**2 Jn 9; Rev 22:18-19**)