

THE FATAL FLAWS OF CHARISMANIA – Fatal Flaw #6: Failing to Follow the Principle of the Protestant Reformation Known as the “Harmony of Scripture”

One of the most significant interpretational standards to emerge from the Protestant Reformers is known as the “Harmony of Scripture.” Simply put, those men understood that the singular author of Biblical revelation is the Holy Spirit. In spite of the various human authors and their diverse backgrounds and personalities, each one was being moved by the third person of the Triune God. With that premise in place, they recognized that the disparities within the Biblical text were only apparent and not real; since the Holy Spirit is incapable of self-contradiction. That mindset enabled the Reformers to embrace the challenge of bringing about a harmony between passages, which on the surface, seemed to be contradictory; in order to present the teachings of the Bible as a consistent and unified whole.

There is no better example of that responsibility being fulfilled than the viewpoint which emerged from the Reformers interaction with the book of Acts. The apparent disparities existing within that historical narrative caused many to view them as anything but normative for their generation. The eventual resolution which brought harmony to the dramatic events known as “the acts of the apostles,” resulted in viewing that period of the early Church as a time of TRANSITION. Those occurrences were seen as being “descriptive” rather than “prescriptive;” with the epistles of the apostles providing the necessary norms for what would prove to be the structural phase of the building of Christ’s Church. **FATAL FLAW #6** of the Pentecostal/Charismatic perspective consists of the willful negligence in fulfilling the obligation of 2 Timothy 2:15 –

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

As a result, proponents of Pentecostal/Charismatic doctrine have failed miserably in bringing about genuine harmony out of the apparent disparities which exist in Scripture. That challenge has been replaced by a compromise of convenience, in order to cherry pick whatever text might be needed, so as to justify whichever contrivance that would have been most recently concocted. The apostle Paul was very careful to warn us of this dereliction of duty in Acts 20:28-32 –

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”