

Notes For: Conflation Confusion (Part 1)

A Topical Study

Introduction

The moral underpinning of God's universe is grounded in the principle of reaping what you sow. This relationship of cause and effect also applies to a trend in evangelical Christianity today that can rightly be described as "conflation confusion." It not only has been a recent trend but a chronic condition of God's people living under the New Covenant. The challenge has always been to identify how the Church under the New Covenant is distinctly different from Israel under the Old Covenant, while maintaining the common bond that unites all of God's people throughout redemptive history. Thus the urgent need for understanding this issue and clarifying any confusion that might exist in four key Biblical categories of God's law: ceremonial, dietary, moral and civil. A great deal of unanimity exists among the first three with the greatest amount of disagreement residing within the civil category.

(1) Paul's Confrontation/Clarity/Concern/Contrast/Comprehension Of This Issue

■ Paul's Confrontation with Peter and James (Galatians 2:11-16)

- >> Paul's conflation confusion condition: minimal (Galatians 2:11)
- >> Peter's conflation confusion condition: moderate (Galatians 2:14)
- >> Barnabas' conflation confusion condition: minimal? (Galatians 2:13; Acts 11:19-26)
- >> James' conflation confusion condition: massive (Galatians 2:12)

■ Paul's Clarity With His Conversion (Philippians 3:4-11)

- >> not disrespectful of his Jewish heritage (Romans 9:1-5; 10:1)
- >> simply grateful for his saving relationship with Christ (Philippians 3:9)
- >> three reasons for Paul's clarity (persecutor/theologian/missionary)

■ Paul's Concern With Conflation (1 Corinthians 7:19)

- >> first century Jewish Christians who struggled with their transition (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- >> circumcision: the very first conflation confusion in the church (Acts 15:1-35)

■ Paul's Contrast With The Covenants (Colossians 2:13-19)

- >> so great a contrast: one "a shadow;" the other "the substance" (Hebrews 10:1)
- >> a precursor: the shadow pointing to the substance (1 Peter 1:10-12)

■ Paul's Comprehension of the Cross (Galatians 6:11-15)

- >> not legalistic but redemptive (Galatians 2:15-19; Isaiah 53:1-12)
- >> not ceremonial but transformational (Galatians 2:20)