

Rebuttals to the falsehood entitled ‘Gospel and Church’ proclaimed by the Breakaways

This is written in response to the deviant beliefs perpetrated by the breakaways from the True Jesus Church (TJC). The main purpose of these rebuttals is to help the believers of the True Jesus Church to be rooted in the beliefs of the church according to the Bible and to expose the fallacies of the beliefs of the breakaways:

The breakaways have come up with a series of strange teachings to promote what they believe in. Very clearly, they have crossed the parameters of the truth that they learnt before in the goodness of the Holy Spirit. They have deserted their faith, in pursuit of falsehood.

PART THREE OF TEN

The following are what they have stated and believed in:

Breakaways’ Proposition three: the Ten Commandments and Five Ways of Righteousness are the common faith of salvation.

Scripture encourages us to ask for ancient paths so we will gain peace. (Jeremiah 6:16). True Jesus Church preached and obeyed Ten Commandments and ‘Five Ways of Righteousness’ since 1917. Ten Commandments are of Law which is the words of judgment to reveal and condemn sin while ‘Five Ways of Righteousness’ from Jesus are the Truth of salvation to forgive and wash sins away. The common faith of True Jesus Church once for all entrusted to God’s holy people is the Ten Commandments and the Five Ways of Righteousness.

By tracing back the history, we would find Five Basic Doctrines was summarized by Elder John Yang in 1945 and proposed in 1951 but was not agreed by other members as they found the message was not complete. Until 1972, Ten Articles of Faith was formed after adding another five articles to the Five Basic Doctrines. Obviously, both Five Basic Doctrines and Ten Basic Beliefs, just appearing in the mid-way, are not basic doctrines of True Jesus Church but only the summary of the personal preaching. Where did Five Basic Doctrines come from? It is derived from four points of the Ways of Righteousness and one of the Ten Commandments. This mixture confuses the Law and the Truth.

Living water in baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit, Foot washing, Holy Communion and speaking in new tongues are the words of truth revealed in new covenant while hidden in old covenant. Receiving the Holy Spirit and Speaking in new tongues are both needed but they are different. The former one means being baptized with the Holy Spirit while the latter one is renewal with the Holy Spirit.

Sabbath day is a commandment of the Law. The Law is not the Truth but the shadow of the Truth, while the Truth is the reality of the Law. Keeping Sabbath day as the Holy day is the law but not the truth. It is one of the Ten Commandments like the any of the commandments such as "one cannot worship idols".

Besides, the Five Basic Doctrines and Ten Basic Beliefs are not complete enough to be the common faith of True Jesus Church since they exclude commandments such as not to worshipping idols. Consequently, the Ten Commandments and Five Ways of Righteousness are the common faith of True Jesus Church for salvation.

Verses they quoted

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. (Revelations 14:12 NIV)

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. (Hebrews 10:1 NIV)

These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (Colossians 2:17 NIV)

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. (Jude 1:3 NIV)

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:5 NIV)

Our responses based on the Bible:

Ulterior Motives of the Breakaways

1. Falsely stating that the Five Basic Beliefs of the True Jesus Church has been rejected, to belittle the beliefs of the church through lies. This is intended to cause maximum harm to the church by casting an inerasable shadow in the hearts of believers.

2. They seek to resurrect the rejected proposals of Isaac Wei. The historical fact is that the 'Five Ways of Righteousness' is part of the 12 Standards proposed by Isaac Wei. In the year 1932 (the 7th Delegate Conference) and after many studies made on Isaac's proposal, the 12 Standards were not passed to be the common beliefs of the church.

3. They attempt to confuse by declaring that the 'Five Ways of Righteousness' is the common beliefs of the church. Here the wicked intent of the breakaways cannot be clearer. Since there are not many who are familiar with the history of TJC, the breakaways have resorted to words of flattery and lies, to take advantage of the situation.

4. They have advanced the 'Five Ways of Righteousness' and invoked history with 2 ulterior motives in mind. On the one hand, they have purposefully confused the historical facts to remove the authenticity of the 10 articles of faith of the True Jesus Church. On the other hand, they seek to gain support from others to go against the church of God by alluding to the fact that the 10 articles of faith are the works of a mere man.

5. From what they do, it is clear that they don't believe in the words of the Bible. What they are doing is to build up enmity between the True Jesus Church and others.

Biblical Principles and Historical Facts

1. There are always various versions to any historical account. This is particularly so with the True Jesus Church and her surviving experiences. Yes, it is true that the history of the True Jesus Church is not at all easily traceable and understandable. There are two reasons for this. First, the True Jesus Church being the true church of God is subject to the attack of the wicked one, who has been on the all-out to confuse the works of God in the church. Second, the church belongs to God. The works performed through God's workers in establishing the church are virtually kept away from the knowledge of man. In this way, man would come to realize that her existence owes to God and God alone.
2. It is true that the 10 articles of faith of the True Jesus Church are formalized 49 years later after the 12 Standards were proposed. But that does not in any way suggest that the True Jesus Church at the time did not believe, practice and uphold the content of the beliefs that we have today. To formally establish a set of belief helps believers to understand what they believe in. More importantly, the essence of this set of beliefs has already been practised and accepted before formalisation.
3. In the years 1967 and 1975, the 10 articles of faith were made the standard of faith in the True Jesus Church over two World Delegate Conferences. This is not the work of man but the work of the Holy Spirit for the following reasons. First, we need to understand that every single one of the articles of faith is in line with the overall teachings of the Bible. Second, the Holy Spirit can make use of a person in the church to accomplish His will. Examples include giving Paul the wisdom to explain justification by faith to refute those Jews who claimed salvation came through the keeping of the Law. In this case, God has made use of an early worker to standardise the faith for the good of the church. Third, conferences of the church are always led by the Spirit. One example is the conference in Jerusalem to thrash out the thorny issue relating to circumcision (Acts 15).
4. The conference in Jerusalem to resolve the issue of circumcision tells us that the church came together to determine what is best for the church. What was discussed was formalized and then made known to the church. It becomes a decree for the church to follow (Act 15:22-29). However, this was not formalized at the inception of the church. The decision they reached is based on the Scriptures. Likewise, the 10 articles of faith are formalized later though not at the inception of the church. However, what is stated in the articles are biblical and in line with the teachings of the apostles.

Biblical Principles and Historical Facts (continued)

5. If the reception of the Holy Spirit is so important for salvation, it should be clear when it happens. Its evidence is the speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4, 33). The incident of speaking in tongues at Pentecost formed the basis for confirming Cornelius' reception of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44f): "Can any forbid water for baptising these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (Acts 10:47; 11:15). That they had received the Holy Spirit was in no way a haphazard guess, or even to be expected, seeing that they were Gentiles. All the circumcised believers who had come to Cornelius' house were amazed, because they heard the listeners speak in tongues (Acts 10:46), thus confirming that the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out upon the Gentiles.

6. The existence of the True Jesus Church is to correct and save. The function of the doctrine is to correct as well (Tit. 1:9; 2 Tim. 3:16). The Sabbath commandment was changed by the Roman Emperor, Constantine from Saturday to Sunday. Being such a significant commandment, the change has caused the whole Christian world to plunge into sins, deprived of God's grace He confers to the observers of His blessed Sabbath Day. For the Sabbath to be incorporated as one of the basic beliefs of the church is indeed the work of the Holy Spirit with a view to restore the Sabbath to its rightful place. This helps the Christian world understand which day of the week is the Sabbath and the blessings that come with its observance.

7. To say that the commandments are the Law and not the truth is to misconstrue the Bible. In John's corpus, the commandments and the truth are inseparable. Elder John tells us that he who says he knows God but does not keep the commandments, does not know God (1 Jn. 2:3-4). Such is a liar and he does not know the truth (1 Jn. 2:3).

In a Nutshell

The 10 articles of faith of the True Jesus Church have withstood the test of time and shall continue to fend off any attack against the church. They are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit for the following reasons. First, they are biblically supported and in line with the teachings of the apostles. Second, they are accepted by workers of the True Jesus Church over a number of world delegate conferences as the common beliefs. Third, they have witnesses from the Holy Spirit. Whenever non-believers accepted the 10 articles of faith with full faith and prayed, they received the Holy Spirit.