

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 SEVEN OF TEN

The following are what they have stated and believed in:

The Breakaways’ Proposition seven: Regarding sending workers

When we check the bible, we will see how the work of sending is done. Apostle Paul sent Titus to each town to appoint elders. The apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria to help them pray for the Holy Spirit. The angel of the Lord sent Philip to go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. When he arrived, the Holy Spirit sent him to draw near to the chariot. Philip took this chance and preached to the Ethiopian eunuch who afterwards came to believe and was baptized.

In the church at Antioch, there were five prophets and teachers. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The Holy Spirit sent Ananias to go to the house of Judas and ask for a man named Paul. By placing hands on Paul, Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and got up to be baptized. When the Holy Spirit sent Peter to the family of Cornelius, he went and baptized believers in the family of the centurion after preaching. We shall know from the Bible what the way of sending workers is.

Our responses based on the Bible:

Motives of the Breakaways

1. They have been travelling to different places to do the work of an ordained minister. They redefine concept of sending out by excluding the church in order to justify their misdemeanour. The church does not recognise their works, including performing sacraments, for they have not been sent by the church.
2. Their intention is to confuse the believers, instilling in their minds that their works are accepted by the church and thereby should be supported. However, such a move will throw the church into disorderliness, indicating that everyone is free to act freely in any way they desire, without the consent of the church. The reason is that they have broken away from the church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Principles

1. The church is the body of Christ. God has set up various offices to help take care of the church. Those who occupied the given offices are God's servants to make decision for the church based on the word of the Bible. The apostles and the elders are to decide the candidate (choose) to be sent, to carry out important matters of the church. They decided for, and acted on behalf of the church. One example is to separate (choose) Barnabas and Saul to perform ministry work (Acts 13:2-3). Another is the sending out of the chosen men to circulate and read out the decrees agreed in the Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15:22) to the gentile churches. Clearly, the church is empowered to choose who to do the work before sending out.
2. Jesus chose or appointed the seventy before sending them out (Lk. 10:1). He did likewise to the 12 apostles (Mk. 6:7). After His resurrection, Jesus did the same to the 12 apostles (Mt. 28:19). What Jesus has done sets a pattern for us all to follow. After the establishment of the church, workers were to be sent to perform particularly the sacraments. They must be commissioned by the church through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Examples include the choosing of the seven (Acts 6:5-6) and the sending out of Barnabas and Paul (Acts 13:1-3).
3. There is a distinction between sending out and delegating of work. To be sent out is to be given commission and authority to perform works such as laying hand, sacraments... The person sent out is agreed and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the church. To be delegated with work means to be allocated or assigned with work to do. Paul gave instructions to Titus to ordain elders. This is an assignment given to Titus.
4. There is a distinction between sending out and being guided by the Spirit. To be sent out is to be given commission and authority to perform works such as laying hand, sacraments... The person sent out is agreed and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the church. Both Peter (Mt. 18:19) and Philip (Acts 6:5-6) were sent workers. These two sent workers were guided by the Lord later on to preach to the family of Cornelius and the Ethiopian eunuch respectively.
5. The Bible says God sent a certain Ananias to meet Saul (Acts 22:12). He was a disciple (Acts 9:10). In those days, the sent workers were not addressed as deacons or preachers. In some cases, they address one another as brothers (2 Pet. 3:15; Jn. 3, 5, 10; Rev. 12:10). Very likely, Ananias was an ordained worker (sent worker) of his own local church. Sometimes, the Bible talks about exceptional cases such as the above. However, no one should use an exceptional case as the basis for flouting the general rule of the Bible.

In a Nutshell

God has enacted rules in the house of the Lord, to instill order and decency in the mind of His people (1 Cor. 14:40). This is done to impart grace to them. When rules are followed, every individual believer shall experience the grace of the Lord in abundance. However, when man begins to superimpose his will upon the will of God, chaos will reign. Not only the church will not be edified, but also believers will be confused.

Most sadly, the confusion caused by the deceivers has surfaced an undeniable fact - the trouble-makers are blinded spiritually from knowing the will of God. In this case, they have lost the capacity of understanding the simple truth of appointing workers and sending out of workers. Their works portray themselves foolish in the eyes of the church and God, having fallen away from grace.