

Bible Questions & Answers

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Worship: 10:30am & 6:00pm Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45am Sun. & 7:00pm Wed.
RADIO: Mon-Fri. 6:55am (1230AM, 95.3FM)
TV: Comcast Ch.8, Tues. 8pm, Thur. 9pm
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WHAT DOES THE WORD "HERESY" MEAN?

The word is defined in Greek dictionaries and lexicons as: "A choosing, choice, then, that which is chosen, and hence an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects." "Causing division by a party spirit, factious." "A party, disunion, sect." "Schismatic, factious, a follower of false doctrine."

The Greek word for heresy is found nine times in the New Testament. The Lord's people used it to speak of false and evil ways and sometimes non-Christians used it to describe the Lord's people. For example, the enemies of the Lord called the church of Christ (Christianity) **heresy**. Yet Paul said that is the way he worshiped God (Acts 24:14). The Lord's church was and is the only right way to please God because it is ordained of God. On the other hand, the church at Corinth was told "...*there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you*" (1 Corinthians 11:19). The point is that there will always be trouble because of erring brethren and false doctrines. This helps identify and strengthen those who are remaining faithful to the Lord. A long established expression goes like this: "it separates the men from the boys." Trouble in the church determines those who are going to remain faithful and those who are not.

In its negative use, **heresy** is a "work of the flesh" and is condemned (Galatians 5:20). False teachers teach "damnable **heresies**...and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (2 Peter 2:1). The Greek word is also translated "sect" five times (Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5; 26:5; 28:22).

No one should ever be involved in heresy because those who are will lose their soul. Love the truth, not heresy!