

IS IT REALLY GOOD FOR OUR CHILDREN TO RESPECT ONE WHO SUPPORTS LIBERALISM? (LADS TO LEADERS/LEADERETTS)

Mark Mosher

Do we have degrees of supporting liberalism? If the preacher is "high profile" enough, as Rubel Shelly is there (as Shelly taught) a "Big F" and a "little f?" of fellowship? Certainly sound congregations do not have degrees of supporting liberalism!

One of the concerns I had with the support of the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program had to do with Jack Zorn. After receiving some disturbing information about Jack Zorn from a reliable source I took it upon myself to write Brother Zorn and ask him some questions. The letter (dated July 9, 1996) stated:

Dear Brother Zorn,

I am writing on behalf of the elders of the Wesconnett church of Christ. We have been a part of the Lads/Leaderettes program now for three years. This program has prompted a great deal of excitement, enthusiasm and involvement from both students and parents. Many have been impressed by the program and are looking forward to future involvement. There are a few that have brought some concerns about the scripturalness of the program and our involvement. We thought it would be good if we simply wrote and asked you some questions to alleviate any concerns.

These questions were the ones asked of me and all preachers we support. We ask that you please answer these questions and return them as soon as you are able.

In addition to these questions, would you please answer the following:

1. What do you consider is the purpose of the Lads/Leaderettes program?
2. What would be your position with

regard to the teaching and fellowship of Rubel Shelly, Jubilee, Jeff Walling, etc?

3. Does the board furnish a financial statement of the Lads/Leaderettes? If so, we should like to have a copy of that statement.

Thank you for taking time to answer these questions. Our prayer is always that the work of the church will continue to prosper.

In His Service,
Mark Mosher

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROSPECTIVE PREACHERS

Please check with pencil and sign.

Yes ___ No ___ 1. Do you believe and/or teach the Bible to be the verbally inspired word of God?

Yes ___ No ___ 2. Do you believe and/or teach that the kingdom and the church are the same, and that the borders of the kingdom do not extend beyond the church of Christ?

Yes ___ No ___ 3. Do you believe and/or teach that the Holy Spirit operates only through the word in both the alien sinner and the Christian?

Yes ___ No ___ 4. Do you believe and/or teach that instrumental music in worship is

sinful and unscriptural?

Yes ___ No ___ 5. Do you believe and/or teach that the Lord's Supper may be observed on any day other than the first day of the week?

Yes ___ No ___ 6. Do you believe and/or teach that any accountable unbaptized person can or will be saved?

Yes ___ No ___ 7. Do you believe and/or teach that God effected creation through an evolutionary process? Theistic evolution?

Yes ___ No ___ 8. Do you participate in Union Worship Services with denominations? Do you believe and/or teach that such would be permissible?

Yes ___ No ___ 9. Do you believe and/or teach that God gave a plan for man's salvation? That man must comply with the condition of His plan or be lost?

Yes ___ No ___ 10. Do you believe and/or teach that one can become a Christian without becoming a member of the church of Christ?

Yes ___ No ___ 11. Do you believe and/or teach that women may lead prayer or "testify" in mixed (men's and women's) classes or assemblies?

We (The elders and I at Wesconnett church of Christ) then received a two-page letter from Jack Zorn stating why he did not have time to answer our questions. (Although the original letter has been lost, Charles Miller who was then an elder can verify that we received such). When we (The eldership and I) felt his answers were unsatisfactory, we asked him again to answer and on August 15, 1996 we received a fax which gave the pages of the official Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes rules with one statement having an arrow pointing to, "NO MEN WILL BE ALLOWED IN THIS (WOMEN'S) COMPETITION." I thought it

interesting that Jack Zorn singled out the area of women not leading over men. It is evident that he must receive many questions about this. No doubt because of the title "LEADERETTES." It was evident to me and one other elder (Charles Miller) that he was not going to answer the specific questions asked. The others in that eldership were satisfied.

It should never be a burden for any gospel preacher or Christian to answer Biblical questions so as to reflect one's soundness. Therefore on August 16, 1996 I telephoned Jack Zorn and stated to him that his fax did not help me to know where he stood. When I asked him about fellowship with Rubel Shelly he stated, "I have nothing to do with him." When I asked about Jeff Walling he said, "I don't know who he is." No doubt brother Zorn has not paid much attention to brotherhood issues. Evidently Brother Zorn does not read sound brotherhood publications. He informed me he was busy and I asked if I could call at another date. He said that would be fine. On August 28, 1996 at 1:30 p.m, I again called Jack Zorn and asked some pointed questions. I knew he attended Vaughn Park church of Christ in Montgomery, Alabama. I also knew the Vaughn Park church of Christ readily supported the Jubilee in Nashville, Tennessee. They stated in their bulletin, "Good News", dated June 12 and 19, 1996:

The largest gathering of Church of Christ members in the Southeast will be taking place in Nashville this July 3-6. This year's Jubilee will focus on the need for Christian compassion. Jubilee **has consistently featured some of the finest speakers in the brotherhood. You will be blessed if you are able to attend.**

A group from Vaughn Park will leave for Nashville early Thursday morning (July 4) and will return late Friday night. Those who wish to attend as part

of this group may sign in the lobby (emphasis mine, kmm).

The false teaching and false teachers at "Jubilee" have been documented and exposed by our brotherhood. It is beyond me how one can declare this event as one that will bless us. It is also beyond me how one could support a congregation that would support such.

I also know that the Vaughn Park church of Christ refers to their ministers as "clergy." Again in their bulletin, "Good News" they stated,

October has been designated as Clergy Appreciation month with October 13 in particular as a day to recognize and honor our ministers. Mark Howard, Mitch and Jim have dedicated their lives to serving our Lord and His Kingdom. They do a remarkable job serving the Vaughn Park church with the many demands that come their way. We are indeed blessed to have these men and their families working with us at Vaughn Park. Let them know how much you appreciate them.

This use of "clergy" is sectarian and was answered by brother Guy N. Woods in "Questions and Answers, Vol. II." I then informed brother Zorn that I had learned of the above information and asked him why he fellowshipped such. His first answer was that he looked at every congregation as autonomous and therefore tried to help the one he attended. Yet he quickly added that he is not at Vaughn Park very much due to the fact that he promotes the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program. When I asked him how he could help them (elders at Vaughn Park church of Christ) out of liberalism and the support of it, he stated, he is "more concerned about teaching truth than going around the brotherhood and talking about who is wrong." I then asked him how he intended to help the con-

gregation. He responded, "I would protest to the elders." I then asked what if the elders at Vaughn Park do not respond to your protest? He said he would seek another congregation. I asked why he had not already sought another congregation since he had been there a while and Vaughn Park continued to support liberalism? He stated that he and his wife liked the teachers and preacher there. Brother Jack Zorn continued to attend Vaughn Park for another four years.

When you visit the web site of the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc. you see many pictures of Jack Zorn. His name is on the material and on the award certificates. In the scrapbooks at Wesconnett the children have pictures that were made with him. He is held up as a model Christian.

Further, money is an over-riding issue. To be a part of the convention one must pay a registration fee (\$30.00 per child). For some time I was told that all this money went toward trophies and supplies and the use of the building for the convention. I requested a copy of the financial report and learned differently. The Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes receives the bulk of its operating funds from the conventions. Other sources of income are: contributions, public sales (a booklet for the Bible Bowl questions cost \$19.95 and a diskette of questions cost \$49.95), benefit dinners (On November 15, 1999 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in Birmingham, AL., the 3rd Annual Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes benefit dinner was held in honor of General Norman Schwarzkopf. Tickets were \$125.00/person or \$1000.00/ table of 8), summer camp fees (\$150.00 per camper; sibling discount: first child \$150.00, second child \$125.00, third child \$100.00), workshop fees (\$500.00, plus traveling expenses, per congregation), and interest. The financial statement for 1997 (which I have in my files) showed a total revenue of \$446,308.00, of that \$249,222 was used for SALARIES (it is shown by the lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc. that they are growing at a rate of 20% per year and have now three conventions for 2001; no doubt the income has increased greatly).

It is most certain some of the convention money goes to Jack Zorn. Financial support is indeed a form of fellowship (cf. Rom. 12:13; Phil. 4:15). Is it good for the church and our children to use the Lord's money to support such?

I asked an eldership, for example, if Rubel Shelly were president of the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes and we knew money from the church would go to his salary would we continue to support such? Their answer was, "If Rubel Shelly were president there would be a mass exodus of conservative congregations because Rubel Shelly was 'a high profile liberal'." To this I would agree. Many congregations would remove their support on such grounds. Yet do we have degrees of supporting liberalism? If the preacher is "high profile enough, as Rubel Shelly is there (as Shelly taught) a "Big F" and a "little f?" of fellowship? Certainly sound congregations do not have degrees of supporting liberalism! I remember one such instance where I received a notice from the Mandarin church (Jacksonville, Florida) stating that Jack Zorn would be conducting a workshop of the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc. We had marked that congregation because of their unsound activities and fellowship. Knowing Jack Zorn's position of fellowship it was not a surprise to see him conducting such a workshop at a liberal congregation. The elders decided we would not SEND OUR CHILDREN NOR SUPPORT IT because we had marked them as being unsound in doctrine. Yet in April, 1996 we allowed our CHILDREN to attend a Jack Zorn reception at the convention. Is this confusing message really good for our children? We wish to have our young people strong in the faith and never to support that which is false. Yet they see inconsistencies on our part. How can this really be good for our children?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article is just a part of one section in a new book by Mark Mosher titled: *Is The "Lads To Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc." REALLY GOOD For Our Children?* Other chapters include: "A Brief History and Explanation of the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc.", "Is the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc. Really Good for our Children if it is a Human Organization?", "Is the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc. Really Good for our Children if we are in Fellowship with Liberal Congregations?", "Is it Really Good for our Children to Compete in Matters of Worship?", "Is it Really Good for our Children to Support all Modern Versions of the Bible?", "Is it Really Good for our Children to Support Non-Christians Leading in Worship?" You may obtain a copy of this 57 page booklet for \$3 postage paid by sending your order and check to:

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(We do not know where brother Mosher is now, nor how to order this booklet. This is simply a reprint of what appeared in the Sept/2001 issue of *Seek The Old Paths*)