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To: Charles E. Gentry

John Allen Chalk

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Mr. Charles E. Gentry
P.O. Box 244
Smithville, Tennessee

Dear Bro. Gentry,

I was surprised and pleased to read your letter I received recently. Especially was I glad to have the opportunity to read your statement of conviction. The sentiments you expressed in that statement are sentiments we all must have if we are to work in harmony.

The short time we were associated together here in Dayton was long enough for me to value your judgments highly. For that reason I was pleased to get your statement.

In my estimation the real point as you pointed out is that the issue is not the duty or command but the method. I am willing and want to fellowship my brethren who will not support the homes as long as they obey the command and do their duty. But they will not afford me the same right and privilege of enacting the command in any suitable manner. You made a very good point in the statement that when the individual Christian gives to the home the Church receives the glory.

The statement is very clear and succinct. I am happy to know of your position because it, to me, is the scriptural one.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk
DEAR JOHN:

HOPE THAT YOUR WORK IS DOING FINE AND THAT YOU AND YOURS ARE WELL AND BLESSED OF THE LORD.

I ENCLOSE AN ARTICLE WHICH I HOPE YOU WILL READ CAREFULLY AND THEN WRITE ME WHAT YOU THINK OF IT.

EVER YOURS IN CHRIST,

Charles E. Gentry

CHARLES E. GENTRY
Minister
PHONES
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DEFINITION OF PURE RELIGION AND A STATEMENT OF CONVICTION

Let us keep the Sabbath holy, and above all, do our work. It will be too

orphanage home has been brought glory to the church. Now don't try to get off the

for me a few years. I have held the opinion that an orphan home or a home for

track by saying that he would be allowed to support a home that teaches false

the aged must be under the oversight of a local eldership in order to be scriptural.

DOCTRINE.

MY CHANGE OF OPINION IS ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE HOME TO

SECOND; THEN IS IT NOT MERELY METHOD? NOW AS I SEE IT, THE LORD GAVE THE

BE UNDER AN ELDERSHIP TO BE SCRIPTURAL.

CHURCH TWO FIELDS OF WORK, 1. PREACH THE GOSPEL 2. CARE FOR THE UNBORN, ORPHANS

I still feel that if the home is under a local eldership, they can give closer

and need in general. When he gave the great commission he said: Soon can this train,

supervision to the entire work. Whereas: the Board of Directors living in many

etc., "into all the world" not just Tennessee and Texas. And preach tract, radio,

different sections and many miles apart can in a short meeting and only occasionally

PULPIT, ETC. "THE GOSPEL NOT SCIENCE, READING, LITERATURE ETC. AND THE PULPIT

CANNOT OVERSEE THE MANY AFFAIRS OF THE HOME AND CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE MANY PHASES OF

OF CHRIST. NOW THE CHURCH CAN SUPPORT THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL IN A MEETING, OVER

SUCH A WORK.

A RADIO PROGRAM, IN A BIBLE CHAIR, BUT IT CANNOT SUPPORT MONK SADDELS, BOOKS AND

I FEEL WITHIN MYSELF A DUTY TO EXAMINE CLOSERLY THE SCRIPTURES ON THESE MATTERS

RECREATION CENTERS FROM THE CHURCH THEOLOGY.

AGAIN AND ALSO A DUTY TO PUT THESE THINGS IN WRITING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS

THEN TO THE SECOND FIELD OF THE CHURCH AT WORK, THE ORPHANS, WIDOWS AND NEEDY

LEST I BE LED AND LEAD OTHERS FROM THE TRUTH.


FIRST: WE UNDERSTAND THE WORD "RELIGION" TO MEAN A WAY OF LIFE AND NOT SOMETHING

YOU GET IN A MYSTERIOUS MANNER. PURE RELIGION THEN WOULD BE A PURE, HOLY, CLEAN WAY


OF LIFE. THIS KIND OF RELIGION IS DEFINED BY JAMES (1:27) AS BEING TWO-FOLD. 1. VISIT

PASSENGERS RETURNING TO OUR DUTY TO SUPPORT THE IDEA, SUFFERING AND NEEDY. BOTH

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN THEIR AFFLICTION. 2. TO KEEP ONESELF UNSTAINED FROM THE WORLD.

INDIVIDUALS AND CONGREGATIONS 2. HOW A BRIEF OF ORPHAN HOME AFFILIATION IS IN NATURE.

I AM AT THIS TIME CONCERNED WITH THE FIRST PART. NOW IT IS SUPERFLOUS FOR ME

NOW DON'T TRY AND MISREAD THE SUBJECT BY MAKING A LAW TO HELP THE NEEDY AND ORPHANS IN

to fill this article with passages of scriptures to show the obligation to help

one way and the needy in another way. The Bible says no such law. Now

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS AND THE NEEDY IN GENERAL, THUS AT THIS TIME I AM CONCERNED WITH THE

DUTY OF CHRISTIANS. BUT THE METHOD OF DOING IT.

NOW SOME ARE CONCERNED WITH WHAT A CHRISTIAN CAN DO AND WHAT A CHURCH CAN DO.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN NEED. IN THEIR AFFLICTION SUFFER SORROW, CLEAN, WASHING:

ETC. SOME WILL NEED CLOTHES AND FOOD AND NOT NEED SHELTER. SOME WILL NEED MEDICINE

FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT IF MY ELDER ARE AWAKE TO THE WORK OF THE LORD, IT IS MY DUTY

AND MEDICAL CARE. WHILE OTHERS WILL NEED ALL THE ITEM PHYSICAL THINGS TO

CONTRIBUTE TO AND THROUGH THE LOCAL CONGREGATION AND SUBMIT TO AND SUPPORT THE

ELDERS IN THE WORK OF GOD, HOWEVER, WE MAY "STRAIN AT A GNAT" IN ALL THE TALK ABOUT

A CHURCH CANNOT DO THIS AND A CHRISTIAN CAN. A CHRISTIAN CAN HAVE CHICKEN, PORK, BEEF

to be pleasing to the Lord we must along the responsibility it given us. I hope and

etc., ON HIS TABLE, BUT WE CANNOT HAVE THEM ON THE LORD'S TABLE. IF A CHRISTIAN GETS

PRAY I HAVE MADE MYSELF CLEAR. I REALIZE THERE ARE DANGERS BEFORE THE RECON AND BE

DRUNK, WE SAY HE HAS BROUGHT REPORON ON THE CHURCH. NOW IF A CHRISTIAN SUPPORTS AN

AN HISTH THE LIRE BE ON GUARD, YET, LET US MAKE NO LAW WHERE GOD HAS MADE NOE.
LET US DO BIBLE THINGS IN BIBLE WAYS, AND ABOVE ALL DO OUR BEST. IT WILL BE TOO ORPHANS HOME HAS HE NOT BROUGHT GLORY TO THE CHURCH. NOW DON'T TRY TO GET OFF THE BAND BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SUPPORT A HOME THAT TEACHES FALSE Doctrine. His will that there may be no division among us. let ourselves be carnal. SECOND: THEN IS IT NOT MERELY METHOD? NOW AS I SEE IT, THE LORD GAVE THE TO A WORLD WHICH WANTS TO "SEE JESUS." CHURCH TWO FIELDS OF WORK. 1. PREACH THE GOSPEL. 2. CARE FOR THE WIDOWS, ORPHANS, AND NEEDY IN GENERAL. WHEN HE GAVE THE GREAT COMMISSION IT WAS: "GO IN CAR, BUS, TRAIN, ETC., INTO ALL THE WORLD NOT JUST TENNESSEE AND TEXAS, AND PREACH" TRACTS, RADIO, PULPIT, ETC., "THE GOSPEL" NOT SCIENCE, READING, LITERATURE ETC. JUST THE PURE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. NOW THE CHURCH CAN SUPPORT THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL IN A MEETING, OVER A RADIO PROGRAM, IN A BIBLE CHAIR, BUT IT CANNOT SUPPORT HOBBY SHOPS, SCHOOLS AND RECREATION CENTERS FROM THE CHURCH TREASURY.

THEN TO THE SECOND FIELD OF THE CHURCH AT WORK, THE ORPHANS, WIDOWS AND NEEDY IN GENERAL. 1 JOHN 3:17; Heb. 13:16; Heb. 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:18; 1 Tim. 5:16; Gal. 2:19; 2 Cor. 9:1-15; 2 Cor. 8:1-24; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 1 Cor. 13:3; Rom. 15:25; Acts 11:29; Acts 6:1-4; Luke 11:41; Matt. 25:35-45; Matt. 5:25 ARE SOME OF THE NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES REFERING TO OUR DUTY TO SUPPORT THE WIDOWS, ORPHANS AND NEEDY, BOTH AS INDIVIDUALS AND CONGREGATIONS. TO NOW A WIDOW OR ORPHAN "IN AFFLCTION" IS IN NEED. NOW DON'T TRY AND MISLEAD THE SUBJECT BY MAKING A LAW TO HELP WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN ONE WAY AND THE NEEDY IN ANOTHER WAY. THE BIBLE KNOWS NO SUCH LAW. NOW LET'S NOTICE JAMES 1:27, "VISIT" IN PRIVATE HOMES, OR ORPHANS HOMES OR HOMES FOR THE AGED. "WIDOWS AND ORPHANS" IN NEED, IN THEIR AFFLCTION, SHELTER, FOOD, CLOTHES, MEDICINE, ETC. SOME WILL NEED CLOTHES AND FOOD AND NOT NEED SHELTER, SOME WILL NEED ONLY MEDICINE AND MEDICAL CARE, WHILE OTHERS WILL NEED ALL THE PHYSICAL THINGS SUPPLIED.

THE CHURCH HAS TO DUTY TO WORK IN THE FIELDS OF LABOR WHICH GOD HAS COMMANDED. TO BE PLEASING TO THE LORD WE MUST ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY GIVEN US. I HOPE AND PRAY I HAVE MADE MYSELF CLEAR. I REALIZE THERE ARE DANGERS BEFORE THE CHURCH AND WE MUST CONSTANTLY BE ON GUARD. YET, LET US MAKE NO LAW WHERE GOD HAS MADE NONE.
LET US "DO BIBLE THINGS IN BIBLE WAYS", AND ABOVE ALL DO OUR BEST. IT WILL BE TOO BAD TO COME TO THE JUDGEMENT AFTER ALL OF OUR PREACHING AND THEN HEAR HIM SAY, "I WAS HUNGRY AND YE FED ME NOT....." MATT. 25:35-45. MAY THE LORD BLESS US IN DOING HIS WILL THAT THERE MAY BE NO DIVISION AMONG US AND THAT OURSELVES TO BE CARNAL TO A WORLD WHICH WANTS TO "SEE JESUS".

CHARLES E. GENTRY