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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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9-26-1968

To: Reuel Lemmons

John Allen Chalk

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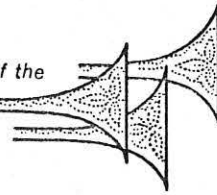
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September 26, 1968

Mr. Reuel Lemmons  
P. O. Box 610  
Austin, Texas

Dear brother Lemmons:

I have just read your editorial, "The Moral Crisis in America," in the September 24 issue of the Firm Foundation. I completely agree with you that the Christian life and the practice of it is the only solution to revolution in our society. I do appreciate your calling for total ignoring of any alleged "power structure" within today's brotherhood. I believe that you have done as good a job as any man I know in ignoring that structure, in your continued, personal commitment to the truths of the Bible.

I do regret that your editorial, according to my personal experience, will be taken by one segment of our brotherhood to mean that no one can speak the truth about the racial prejudice among members of the churches of Christ. Frankly, I have attended most of the "suspected" meetings held in the brotherhood in the last 24 months regarding the racial situation. I have yet to hear an inflammatory speech, the nature of which you describe in this editorial. I have heard, and have made speeches in which specific and known violations of all that is Christ-like are cited. We do cite known sin in order to convict those guilty of sin, don't we? I deeply regret that the kind of emphasis made in your editorial will encourage those who continue to "have respect of persons" and thereby sin to continue in that sin. I know that is not your intention, but I also know, from personal experience, how brethren today are acting in this area.

I am sure that you make a distinction between conviction of sin and an inflammatory speech. The only inflammatory speech I have heard regarding the racial situation in the church was made by the most beloved preacher in Nashville, Tennessee, as he quoted the results of a survey he had made of brotherhood editors (all white, of course). Your response to that survey was not included in those remarks and, therefore, I speak without any personal indictment of any kind. I simply believe that you have encouraged continuing prejudice and sin regarding "respect of persons" in today's church. I refuse knowingly to participate in the encouragement of such evil. I know that you do too.

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This letter does not demand a reply. Out of the same continuing good relationship that we have had in the past, I simply wanted to write my reactions to this editorial.

The answer is Jesus Christ. The gospel must be preached without compromise. The Bible provides the only saving message man can hear and know today. To the Bible and all of its teachings I am completely devoted, and those who hear me preach, and know my life, have no difficulty understanding that. Therefore, the remarks I have made in this letter arise only out of the same conviction I have, similar to yours, to be faithful and obedient to all truth.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk  
Radio Evangelist

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