

But I'm Not Comfortable With It!

How many times have you heard someone say, "But I'm not comfortable with it!" And immediately the suggestion is dropped like a "hot potato". Many of us through the years have seen the progress of the local church hampered because some brother (or sister) just could not accept a change because "They were not comfortable with it". It is sad indeed when the Lord's work suffers because brethren are not comfortable. How many good men have been prohibited from serving as an elder just because some one was "not comfortable."? Forget comfortable, what are the qualifications? If a man is qualified, (the Bible gives us the qualifications) who is to prevent him from serving. If some one is not "comfortable" it probably indicates that there are problems between them and a matter more important than comfort is at stake. Brother "Tightwad" is not comfortable when the collection plate is passed. Do stop taking the collection? I wonder how comfortable the scourging was that Jesus received. How comfortable was the cross on which He hung for hours on that dark day at Golgotha? Since when has being comfortable become the criteria for what the church does in work and worship?

In recent years we have allowed the comfort zone of brethren to determine the lines of fellowship. When we decide who is to be fellowshiped and who are not we need more than comfort? On any given Lord's Day throughout the brother hood there are folks who are not comfortable. Brother or Sister "Do As I Please" has spent the night on the town social drinking, dancing, and the such like. When the preacher begins his sermon on the works of the flesh, they experience a twinge of uncomfortableness. How many "good sisters" become uncomfortable when the sermon turns to modesty. They have a tough time pulling that short skirt down or fumble around for something to cover the bare shoulders, as they become "uncomfortable with the preaching", is the preacher supposed to change his sermon because someone "Is not comfortable with it?" Yet the work of the church and fellowship is hampered because of in many cases, nothing more.

I will admit there are some practices in the brotherhood that I am not comfortable with. I question the reason to practice it. I am not comfortable with people clapping at a baptism. Baptism is not a theatrical performance. It is an act of obedience. If clapping is appropriate at a baptism, why not clap when someone partakes of the Lord's Supper or gives into the collection. Consistency seems to demand it since they are all acts of obedience. The question is, do we fellowship those who do? What scripture is being violated? Do we make clapping a test of fellowship? I am not comfortable with coffee and donuts during Bible class. If a congregation does that do we withdraw fellowship?

Let us follow the Scriptures in all matters whether we are comfortable with or not.

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