



June 27, 1975

Mr. Bob Mumford  
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Dear Bob:

Some very disturbing reports have reached me from across the country about the so-called "discipleship-shepherd-submission" teaching, and I am writing in some detail to you not just because of my personal regard for you, but also because CBN for a period of some two years has aired in many cities the various teaching programs which we produced with you, Derek, Don, and Charles. Consequently we need to share our profound concern at what we have seen and heard regarding your more recent teachings.

In September of 1974 I encountered a group of very sincere brethren in Louisville, Kentucky who were using a cultish jargon unfamiliar to me. They did not join churches, they "submitted". They did not have pastors, they had "shepherds." Instead of speaking much about our Saviour, they spoke much about their "relationships" and then "submission" to this one and to the other.

My spiritual antenna began to be activated, because I sensed here what seemed in embryo an unnatural and unscriptural domination of one man by another. My fears were confirmed when on a journey to Oral Roberts University I learned of the chaos that had been brought about in the student body when a certain twenty year old lad proclaimed himself the "shepherd" of a group of his fellow students whom he made "submit" to his domination and from whom he exacted tithes. When the "cell" was finally broken up, the youthful "shepherd" lamented, "But I promised them that I would never leave them nor forsake them."

Later on, I felt continual pressure on CBN to include in our counseling staff those who embraced this "submission" doctrine. In one instance a secretary we hired from this group turned out to be a hopeless cripple who could scarcely type a letter without a long distance telephone call to her "shepherd". In one instance one of our TV viewers called to be prayed with concerning a problem. The "submitted" counsellor said nothing about Jesus, but asked, "Where do you submit?" When the caller informed him that she did not know what he was talking about, the counsellor then said, "Unless you are 'submitted', I won't pray for you."

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During this time, one of our Board of Directors, who is a highly respected North Carolina businessman expressed extreme alarm that some of his wealthy Christian friends were being forced not only to divulge the most confidential details of their financial and family life, but were being urged to pour their resources either into the pockets of the head "shepherds" in Fort Lauderdale or into those of Charles Simpson in Mobile.

Some of these reports strained my belief, for I could not believe that such things could emanate from you, Derek Prince, and Charles Simpson. However, two of our CBN engineers left us and came to work for you in Fort Lauderdale. The attached signed affidavit from one of them, Wayne Fast, is attested to by the other, Allan McCarty, both of them point directly to you as the fountainhead of what seems to be another charismatic heresy on the order of the "manifested sons - latter rain" and "Jesus Only" teachings of former days.

Bob, why do charismatics always have to take simple Bible truths and push them to such ridiculous extremes that they become unbalanced and heretical? Why is it that these teachings invariably exalt man and his activities and powers above Jesus and His powers? With this background here is my understanding of the Watchman Nee - Juan Carlos Ortiz "submission" teachings as expanded and put into practice by you and your fellow teachers, along with my comments and concerns.

#### SUBMISSION TEACHING

#### BIBLICAL REFERENCES, AND COMMENT

##### 1. Revelation

The church is no longer subject to a 2,000 year old written LOGOS, but may rely on the current REMA as revealed to the "shepherds." As Ortiz puts it, "The Word and the will of God for our lives today should come first to the group of pastors that get together in a certain city.... God reveals to them the purpose for the city and His purpose for the disciples."

The Bible says,

"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Psa. 119:89.

"...the scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8)

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In other words, the small group of charismatics in any city will have revelation from God on a par with the written Word of God. In fact, because this REMA is contemporary, it will tend to supercede the written Word of God from in the Bible.

"Every scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable."  
II Timothy 3:16.

"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." Revelation 22:18.

The Roman Church accepts the tradition taken from church councils as equal to the Bible. In A.D. 323, for instance, the Council of Nicea held that Mary was the "Mother of God." You can judge whether or not that tradition conformed to the scripture or not.

The great leaders of the Protestant Reformation rejected this contention, and declared the Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice for the Christians.

The "Submission" teaching not only rejects the great Protestant victories for which martyrs shed their blood, but they are much worse, for in this new teaching four or five untaught workers are empowered in one "prayer meeting" to change God's written Word. At least in the Roman Church there must be a ponderous worldwide convocation of scholars, learned Bishops, and other dignataries before some pronouncement is made.

## 2. Authority

In "submission" it is possible to pick your own "shepherd", who can be a twenty year old student; a new Christian; a trained clergyman; or a factory worker. Once this relationship is established it is "more binding than a marriage." The "sheep" must open up the "Garden of their heart to their shepherd", revealing in the process the most intimate details of their spiritual life, their thought life, their sex life, and especially their financial life. Then subtle and overt pressure is exerted on the sheep to pay tithes to their shepherd. Then like a spiritual chain letter the shepherds submit (and pay tithes) up to the top shepherds, who in the United States finally submit to Bob Mumford.

According to Wayne Fast, when he would not submit to this chain, he was told that he would "miss out on the Kingdom of God" and further that he would be "ruined spiritually, physically, and financially.

The authority is so great that Tom Monroe, a key figure in Fort Lauderdale, told both Wayne Fast and Allen McCarty, "If God Almighty spoke to me, and I knew for a certainty that it was God speaking, and if my shepherd told me to do the opposite, I would obey my shepherd."

## Scripture

"The Lord is my Shepherd." Psa. 23:1

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things." I John 2:27

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1

"And let the peace of God rule (as an umpire of your actions) in your heart". Colossians 3:15

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14

"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:4,5,27.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:31.

### Authority (Continued)

The "sheep" are told that they are not to expect any direct communication from the Holy Spirit. Anything that comes from any other source than the "shepherd" is of "the flesh", and must be burnt up. The organist at a certain "submitted" church in Pittsburgh said, "J. (her shepherd) is the only revelation of God I will ever need."

Those "submitted" are under the control of their "shepherd's." Wayne Fast tells of a pregnant woman who could not visit a gynecologist until her "shepherd" approved it. Another couple were told by their "shepherd" to stop living together as man and wife. "Sheep" cannot buy a car, a home, take a trip, a vacation, or engage in any other activity of any magnitude without permission of their shepherd.

### Scripture

"Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock...not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." I Peter 5

"Be a follower of me even as I am of Christ."

In the New Testament, the authority rested in the 12 Apostles and 58 other elders who formed a council of 70 in Jerusalem. Yet Jesus gave direct authority for the gentiles to Paul who evidenced authority by:

- (1) Leading them to Christ.
- (2) Laying a foundation and not building on that of another.
- (3) Showing signs, wonders, and works of power.

In doctrinal matters, only the matters of circumcision and keeping the law of Moses were ever referred by Paul to the Council in Jerusalem. Never did those in Jerusalem attempt to dominate Paul or any of the churches that he founded. It would have been unthinkable for them to exact tithes of Paul, or for him to exact them from those that he led to Christ.

He "rebuked, exhorted, taught, and showed by example." Never would he have tried to pry open the secret lives of all the people in his churches. How utterly repugnant to the New Testament is the 5 & 10 cent store pseudo psychological meddling and domination now being practiced. For the attitude of the true apostle read his letter to Philemon.

### Scripture & Comments

There was clear cut authority in the New Testament, yet it was never really used. In today's church what is the authority? The Pope? The World Council? The National Council? The Assemblies of God? The Church of God? The Methodist or Episcopal Council of Bishops? The Archbishop of Canterbury? The Full Gospel Business Men's Board of Directors? Oral Roberts? Billy Graham? CBN? Rex Humbard? Five teachers in Fort Lauderdale? Juan Ortiz? The Southern Baptists? Ten pastors in Louisville, Kentucky.

None of these? Every pastor? The Holy Spirit dealing with a priesthood of believers?

If the Jerusalem Council which included eleven men who lived personally with Jesus, was very cautious and reserved in dealing with their fellowmen, how can any little group of charismatics in our confused state be so terribly dogmatic in trying to dominate others?

### 3. Evangelism

According to Wayne Fast, his "shepherd" in Fort Lauderdale said, "We are not a John 3:16 ministry. We are here to establish the government of God on earth."

"Sheep" were therefore forbidden to witness about Christ or to lead anyone to Him. When asked why this was so they were told, "when a person leads another person to Jesus he becomes responsible to "shepherd" him for the rest of his life." The

### Scripture

"...and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

"Go ye into all the earth, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:17.

Evangelism (Continued)

sheep were not considered ready to take on this responsibility and were therefore forbidden to do it.

Scripture

"So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." Romans 1:15.

"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

"How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher." Romans 10:14.

"Praying...for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel...as I ought to speak." Ephesians 6:18-19-20.

"Keep not silence for I have much people in this city."

It is obvious that any movement which feeds upon itself will expire. Jesus gave to his church the task of "holding forth the word of life" to a world without hope. The obsessive desire to order and govern Christians will invariably cut the nerve of evangelism. Jesus said to "feed my sheep." Healthy, well fed sheep must reproduce. Jesus did not say "dominate sheep and prohibit them from reproducing."

4. Language

"Submitted"; "submission";  
"relationship"; "discipling";  
"shepherding"; "eldership";  
"unauthorized communication";  
etc.

Scripture & Comments

Invariably every cult develops a jargon that is not understood by those outside. Ordinary words are twisted or given special meaning. Since most of

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Scripture & Comments

these words now stand for things that are extra Biblical there is no objective way to regulate them. Every man does what is right in his own eyes, and when people begin to wake up their faith is left in shambles.

Bob, these thoughts are just the skimming of the surface. We have tapes of conversations plus a taped diary furnished by Wayne Fast confirmed by Allen McCarty. They represent very serious charges which should be dealt with by you.

I believe a counsel of wise brethren composed of David DuPlessis; Demos Shakarin; Dan Malachuk; Harald Bredesen; Howard Conatser; Dennis Bennett; Judson Cornwall; should meet with me to hear what Wayne Fast and Allan McCarty have to say and to give you an opportunity to answer, so that some conclusion can be reached at least in our immediate circle.

Please let me hear from you. I remain

Yours in Christ,



Pat Robertson  
President