

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Questions may be good! When the Jews at Pentecost asked, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*” (Acts 2:37), and the Ethiopian asked, “*What hinders me from being baptized?*” (Acts 8:36), and Saul of Tarsus asked, “*Lord what do You want me to do?*” (Acts 9:6), they were asking questions to gain knowledge of the Lord’s will for the purpose of responding in obedience to it. **This is good!** Sometimes a teacher may ask questions for the purpose of calling attention to a misconception or to highlight a subject which needs further discussion. When people today question a Bible teacher with the intent of learning more about the Scriptures, a Bible teacher with becoming humility and a proper attitude toward his or her teaching will welcome the opportunity for further discussion and expansion on the subject matter. **Therefore, questions may be good!**

However, it should also be noted that questions may sometimes be used to confuse and advance a human doctrine. A Pharisee lawyer tested (tempting—KJV) Jesus by asking, “*Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?*” (Matt 22:36). Another time the Pharisees tried to entangle Jesus by asking Him, “*Is it lawful to pay taxes to Ceasar, or not?*” (Matt 22:37) **Therefore, some questions**

may be asked with an improper motive! Jesus who has all wisdom, was able to turn such attempts to pervert truth on the questioner, as for example, “*Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?’*”²⁴ But Jesus answered and said to them, “*I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things:*”²⁵ *The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?*” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “*If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’*”²⁶ *But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.*”²⁷ So they answered Jesus and said, “*We do not know.*” And He said to them, “*Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.*” (Matt 21:23—27)

The fact is, you and I do not have the knowledge, wisdom, and ability that Jesus has, and may become confused, and unable to properly answer some questions. We must not let ourselves become discouraged. It is always best to say, “I do not know the answer to that question, but I will try to find the answer”; rather than trying to fake an answer and get it wrong. Remember the age old question, “Have you stopped beating your wife, cannot be answered truthfully with a ‘yes’ or ‘no’”. Often, a false teacher learns a Satan inspired schrewdness in questioning which he or she knows can be used to the detriment of truth and sound doctrine. And, to the destruction of the faith of those who have not been properly matured and grounded in Bible knowledge and faith. False teachers (or teachers of false doctrine) may also gain unlearned and ignorant disciples who parrot their methods to subvert the growth of the Lord’s cause.

Of course, the solution or remedy for such inabilities on our part is to study the Word of God more diligently, and increase our knowledge and faith more circumspectly with the intent of being more productive and fruitful in the work of the Lord. By all means, pray that God will grant us the wisdom to discern motives, so that we will never belittle and embarrass the sincere and honest searcher for truth. We also must pray that God will help us to help the false teacher to learn their error and turn from it.

All our efforts to help others must be with the understanding and appreciation of our own limitations. We must also understand that without receiving and exercising God's love, all our efforts to help self and others are futile. May God help us all, as the body of Christ, to grow spiritually and numerically. It is obvious from the Scriptures that His people are to be His means of carrying the only saving message He authorized to the world that is lost in sin. Don't be afraid to ask and seek for answers to Bible questions.