

# How To Act Toward Those That Do You Wrong

When I was cast out of the Restoration congregation in Aylmer because I disagreed with some of their practices and teaching I determined by the grace of God to not act like they would act toward me (I have been around them for 20 years and I know how they deal with those that leave or they put out).

I would not give railing for railing. I wouldn't be rude toward them when they were rude toward me. I would not unsave them when they unsave me. I would not slander them when they slandered me. I would not shun them when they would shun me.

I would not rejoice when things go wrong for them like they will rejoice when things go wrong for me. I would not paint their conduct in the worse possible way like they will do to me. I will not repeat evil stories I hear about them like they will no doubt repeat those they hear about me. I won't dredge up all their past faults and failures and spread them around like they will of me.

Instead I will with love pray for them, ask God's blessings upon them, continue to brother them, stand up for them when they are misrepresented and slandered, present them in the best light I can, not hold their sins against them but hope their are doing these things in ignorance. When I differed with them it would be only on their doctrine and practices and even then I will testify of all the good teachings and practices they have and all the wonderful truth I have learned from them.

I have determined in my heart to rejoice when they do wrong to me and to forgive them 7 times 70 each day for the rest of my life.

This is the way the Lord would have us to act toward those that abuse us, that cast us out, that count us apostate, that refuse to fellowship us and influence others to do the same – just because we disagree with them on non-essential practices and doctrine.

-Bob Mutch

# Why I Was Banned From The Church of God Restoration

by Bob Mutch

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# 16 Objections to COGR Practices & Doctrines

I was surprised to say the least when I was asked to meet my Pastor, Henry Hildebrandt at this office on July 22nd to find out that I was banned from the all meetings of the Church of God (Restoration). I was told by Henry that the decision was made by Danny Layne, Ray Timsman, and himself with the approval of my dear wife Susan Mutch, all ordained ministers of the Restoration. Their pictures are above listed from left to right.

At the time Henry Hildebrandt told me I was no longer welcome to attend meetings I had been under church discipline where I had been considered a visitor since Feb of 2007. This was for telling Henry Hildebrandt that I felt their anti-medical teaching where they teach the sisters need to be willing to die before getting medical help in child bearing and if they do go for life saving medical help it is sin – was ludicrous.

When Henry Hildebrandt informed me that I was no longer welcome and banned from all meetings he neither made any attempt to show me the errors of my 16 objections to Restoration practices and doctrines nor did he deny any of my points. While in the office with him I brought up his teaching that we are to marry the church (meaning the Restoration) and told him that I considered it amateuristic and to be spiritual polygamy but he didn't want to discuss it. I also let him know that I felt he was under the influence of a sectarian spirit and that he needed to stop professing to be anti-sectarian.

I had emailed Henry Hildebrandt the 16 objections to Restoration practices and doctrines at his prompting when in his email he noted that “most of the time I have found that when a person is in disagreement with the body on a mayor point, there are usually other areas that need attention”. I find it strange that in the email that I responded to Henry Hildebrandt told me “if the whole body is wrong then you have an obligation to show us by the Bible...” yet in the meeting he made no attempt to show me by the Bible where I was wrong nor has he responded to the email I sent him the 16 points in. I guess only I have an obligation to show them their errors they don't have any obligation to show me mine – and that I will do!

I talked to my wife shortly after and told her what had happened she promptly told me “Bob you're not saved”. When I answered the phone the next day I got Danny Layne who was calling for Susan and had a

Plunge your soul with holy bliss,  
And glory in the storm.  
Your spirit free from your flesh,  
Trials no longer mourn.

Tis the way to selfless life,  
Set free while here at last.  
Driven to the Word on knees,  
Our faith increases fast.

This faith that causes us to stand,  
To quench each fiery dart.  
The victory o'er the world gives,  
To those of pure in heart.

Oh Saviour dear, the victory is,  
So very bitter sweet.  
Free from attitudes of sin,  
Your holy flesh we eat.

Seeking from this vile flesh,  
From sinful world we hurl.  
Released to your bosom sweet,  
In dream our mind does swirl.

Oh what on that very day,  
The bliss we all will share.  
When trials pass our way no more,  
From earth away we tear.

Oh courage you do gracious give,  
The fight to onward press.  
Time is short the work is much,  
Souls we need to bless.

With vineyard work we to do,  
Your grace we do implore.  
The kingdom message we sound aloud,  
Til time shall be no more.

-Bob Mutch

# Born From a Hurting Heart

I wrote this poem four months ago on April 14, 2008 and posted it on the COGCM Forum where I post as user Qwerty.

Most verses were written as tears rolled down my face as this poem was born from what at the time was a very hurting heart. Even now I weep as I write this blog post remembering what I was going through at the time. It was very hard for me to watch, as it seemed, all my Christian friends whom I loved so dearly slip away from me.

The tears were a mixture of joy and sorrow from a heart that was fully resigned to the will of God. A heart that was by grace free from all sinful attitudes and self pity . A heart that was joyful and full of glory, happy and praising, yet was crying with sorrow.

It is normal to think that the trials you are going through are big but even when I was in the middle of this trial I realize it was but a small trial allowed by the Lord to increase my patience and endurance and I gladly embraced it.

While it hurt to be set aside, falsely accused, threatened to be put out of a fellowship of people you love, and banished to hell, it was nothing compared to what I knew Jesus when through for me and it was a trial I was more than willing to go through for my Lord. I hope you enjoy the poem!

## Embrace Your Trials

Embracing trials with open arms,  
They waft us up above.  
They are the chariots sent from God,  
To purify our love.

They come from friends and family,  
Those that hurt the most.  
They cause us to walk alone,  
To ride with angel host.

Embrace your lot in this life,  
Twill all soon be past.  
Do those things that please the Lord,  
Not heeding trials blast.

short conversation with him. When I told Danny Layne that casting out a Christian out of their assembly over disagree in non-essentials is sectarian and when I let him know in my opinion he was operating under a sectarian spirit he let me know that he didn't think I was saved. When asked what my sin was Layne told me that I didn't believe the Restoration was prophetic which is one of their cardinal teachings.

Danny Layne also told me that this was not a top down action the ministry had taken against me but that there had been a number of members that had been concerned about me for some time and especially since I had contacted 911 during a panic attack I have back in early 2007. (I am not giving word for word the conversation I had with Danny Layne but giving it to the best of my remembrance.)

Members going to the Restoration ministry with concerns about other members that are not carrying the party line is part of the culture of the Restoration. When some one goes against what the ministers teach the other members wonder what is wrong with this person and they often express their concern to the ministry by asking if that person is still saved. Shortly after the issue of phoning 911 in early 2007 I had one local member of the Aylmer congregation ask me if I was still saved, and another me asking me almost weekly how I was doing spiritually.

Since I was cast out on Tuesday July 22nd, I have not received one call from a Church of God minister nor a call from any members of the movement concerning my state or how I am doing. It seems they have cast me out and washed their hands of me. May the Lord have mercy on their souls. Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren you have done it on to me Jesus said.

I am glad to report that by the grace of God I have a heart full of love for all of them and while it is difficult for me to understand how some one can be saved and take such unscriptural action against another Christian I am more than willing to hope all things and endure all things and pray that the Lord will show them the error of their way. I pray for them daily and want to say by the grace of God I am completely free from all bitterness or any get-back spirit.

For those that are wondering why I am publicly posting what should be a private matter I would like to answer that question clearly and concisely.

1. I feel I need to go on record and provide documented information showing why I was cast out of the Restoration as the Restoration ministers are so bias against those they cast out they tend to slander them and not provide a balanced account of what really happened.

2. I feel that prospective members need to be made away of what they are getting into when they join the Restoration. The practice of hiding doctrines from prospective members and new members is unfair and in my opinion not in good faith.

3. By taking these issues which should be dealt with in a private matter public, I hope to force the Restoration ministers to address these issues for the betterment of the other members of the Restoration movement. You may understand this point better then you read my 16 objections below.

4. I want a place that I can reference people to that want to know the objections that I made that got me cast out and banned.

The following are the 16 objects to Restoration practices and doctrines as I sent them in my July 16th 2008 email to Henry Hildebrandt numbered in the order I emailed them to him and reorganized under the following five headings. It was for holding and making these objections they cast me out of their assembly and told me I am no longer saved.

#### **End Times:**

3. that the Restoration will never compromise;
4. that no Christians will be left in any denominations and they will only be found in the Restoration before the Lord comes back;
5. the back dating of the fall of the church to 270 by holding that the three days and a half of Rev 11 are 350 years and that God purposely using the day symbol in this way so that many people would not accept the 270/1880 dates;
8. that the Restoration is prophetic and therefore can do no wrong;

#### **Authoritarian Ministry:**

1. Believe what ever the ministry teachings without questioning it;
2. follow counsel given by the ministry even if you don't understand it;
6. that not keeping Restoration rules is sin and causes you to lose your salvation;
7. ministers going on Internet while telling others it is sin to do the same;

#### **Movement Orientated:**

10. teaching that when you praise the Restoration you are really praising Jesus as the Restoration is Jesus' body;
11. attributing the accepting the Restoration as the church, obeying the Restoration ministry, and keep all the Restoration rules as spirituality verses having a deep devotional life, an active burden for souls, a consistent increase in the fruit of the Spirit, and freedom from carnality;

*>>>I am very thankful every time I hear that you are drawing closer to the Lord! We will know that it is true when we see that it affects these areas that we are dealing with.*

I would strongly disagree with this. I don't think you can tie a person's spirituality to keeping or not keeping manmade rules, written or unwritten. Statement likes these in my opinion show a lack of discernment of what real spirituality is.

*>>>Let me close with this: If we, as the ministry, would ignore the need that is there, we would be no better than any Babylonian place out there.*

It would be my position that those that make manmade rules and make them a test of fellowship are creating confusion and have become sectarian in spirit. The Bible teaches we are to offer our hand in fellowship to every person that is saved and that is living a holy consecrated life to God to all they know and understand. Not every person that is saved and living a holy consecrated life to God to all they know and understand and keeps all the Restorations unwritten rules.

Even with the above list of things I disagree with, all and all I am very happy to be whatever small part of the congregation here in Aylmer I am allowed to be.

Concerning the actions that have been taken against me I strongly believe that everything is in the hands of Lord and I have no fear of what any man can do to me. I know all actions that have been or will be taken against me have been allowed by the Lord and the Lord will use them for my spiritual good.

It is always good for our humility to be considered less spiritual than we really are and I welcome every trial with joy that will build endurance in my Christian experience. When we do well and we suffer for it and we take this patiently with a good attitude and full joy then this is acceptable with God.

Christian love and prayers,  
Bob Mutch

--ministers going on Internet while telling others it is sin to do the same;  
--being less than forthcoming and purposely leaving authorities with wrong impressions concerning deaths where members refused medical help;

--that the Restoration is prophetic and therefore can do no wrong;

--the hiding of divorce/remarriage and the anti-medical teaching from visitors and new members;

--teaching that when you praise the Restoration you are really praising Jesus as the Restoration is Jesus' body;

--attributing the accepting the Restoration as the church, obeying the Restoration ministry, and keep all the Restoration rules as spirituality verses having a deep devotional life, an active burden for souls, a consistent increase in the fruit of the Spirit, and freedom from carnality;

--teaching and encouraging members to praise the ministry verbally in meetings;

--teaching that we are to be married to the Restoration;

--teaching a standard of dress that is not based on modesty only but also based on distinction for the sake of being distinct and noticed;

--a low standard of sanctification that allows for carnality in the sanctified;

--and of course the anti-medical teaching.

There probably are a number more but they have no practical implications and they are just minor nit picky issues that would serve no purpose at all in being raised.

I don't consider any of these major points of Christian doctrine. Most of these issues are just part of having a radical end times teaching, an authoritarian ministry, being movement centric, and being non-conformist with a lot of unwritten rules. I am however concerned with what I have seen where members and ministers appear to have become loose with the truth and have purposely left authorities with incorrect impressions that I feel like in some cases could be seen by some as lying. Also I am equally concerned that we don't fall into movement and ministry worship as spiritual pride will destroy any movement. Then of course I disagree with the anti-medical teaching.

12. teaching and encouraging members to praise the ministry verbally in meetings;

13. teaching that we are to be married to the Restoration;

#### **Non-Conformist/Unwritten Rules:**

14. teaching a standard of dress that is not based on modesty only but also based on distinction for the sake of being distinct and noticed;

#### **Ethically Issues:**

8. being less than forthcoming and purposely leaving authorities with wrong impressions concerning deaths where members refused medical help;

9. the hiding of divorce/remarriage and the anti-medical teaching from visitors and new members;

15. a low standard of sanctification that allows for carnality in the sanctified;

16. and of course the anti-medical teaching.

-Bob Mutch

## **Email to Henry Hildebrandt**

**Note:** The following was a responding to an email Henry send me and I cut and paste his points into my email and they are in italic. This makes it easier to see what I am responding to. This was the way the original email was set to Henry.

Dear brother Henry,

I sorry I took so long to answer your email. I have done my best to carefully and prayerfully answer your questions and to be honest and up front with you and where I stand. I wrote this reply on May 12th (a week after you I received your email) and I spend the last 2 months meditating about what I wrote and if I should change anything or add anything.

I took the day off today from work to fast and prayerfully consider what I wrote and have made a few changes and added the list of things that I would respectively disagree with that the Restoration teaches. While I think we need to be careful to not be rash in what we say I feel it is best for all to be upfront and honest about how we see things and where we stand on issues. I have always tried my best before the Lord to do this even when it has been to my own hurt. Honesty and openness with the brethren is truly the best policy.

I have responded to your questions with my many faults, failing, lacks and weaknesses before me. I lay no claim to a deeper revelation than any one else and for some of the things I disagree with I have no answers. I have no axe to grind, no hobby to ride, and little interest in anything that doesn't directly relate to personal holiness and my increasing in the grace of God. While I have answered your questions clearly, directly and perhaps in some cases forwardly I want you to know I shy away from confrontation and take no pleasure in disagreeing with you. I trust you will receive this response in the spirit that it has been written.

*>>>Do you feel that it is possible to be in perfect unity with us and yet at the same time disagree on a major doctrine?*

I am taking you here to mean unity of the Spirit as if you were meaning unity of teaching or doctrine the question would be rhetorical. It would depend on what you are calling a major doctrine. I presume you are referring to the standard taught concerning what Restoration members are permitted to go to the doctor for. I wouldn't consider rules that dictate which members are allowed to seek medical care and what they are allowed to seek medical care for to be a major doctrine.

If you consider this a major doctrine then the restoration just changed a major doctrine when your start requiring all children and young people under the age of 18 in Canada and US to go to the doctor for all medical needs that the law would require them to.

So to answer your question, I do believe there can be perfect unity of the Spirit with other Christians that have a difference in standard for what they believe the Lord has lead them to hold as to what is allowable or not allowable concerning going to the doctor.

I would not break fellowship with someone that believes that they should not go to the doctor to get there teeth fixed or for getting a broken bone fixed or if they hold they shouldn't take medication that will deaden the nerves so there is no pain. Nor would I break fellowship with those that believe it is ok to go to the doctor to save a child or mother during birth, or with some one that believes it is ok to take insulin to control their blood sugar level, or for some one that takes medicine for their bi-polar condition, or with someone that goes to the doctor for an appendectomy.

Further I won't consider people inherently less spiritual for doing the above nor for believing that it is ok before the Lord to do these things. I feel like to break fellowship with brethren over things like this would be the fruit of a sectarian spirit.

When it comes to teachings that the Bible does not give us clear instruc-

medical care. It is just not there. And if it did fine it then you would need to obey it and not take any medical care instead of following the many exceptions the Restoration has made.

*>>>Brother, please consider this email very seriously and DO NOT override the urgency of it.*

Brother Henry we had a conversation back in Feb of 2007 and at that time I told you clearly where I stood and how I came to that position after prayer, fasting, and searching the Word of God. I let you know that I believed that teaching mothers-to-be to consecrate to die in childbearing before accepting medical help in the case of complications was a ludicrous position to hold.

To your suggestion that I pray for more faith and that I admit to lacking faith in divine healing I was very up front and honest with you. I told you I was not seeking further understanding on that point as I felt like the Lord had clearly showed me that what the Restoration was teaching for divine healing was not Biblical. This has not changed.

*>>>Most of the time I have found that when a person is in disagreement with the body on a major point, there are usually other areas that need attention.*

I have gone on record with different ministers down through the years concerning a number of things that the Restoration and Faith & Victory teaches that I don't think are supported by the Bible. I disagree with the following positions the Restoration takes:

- Believe what ever the ministry teachings without questioning it;
- follow counsel given by the ministry even if you don't understand it;
- that the Restoration will never compromise;
- that no Christians will be left in any denominations and they will only be found in the Restoration before the Lord comes back;
- the back dating of the fall of the church to 270 by holding that the three days and a half of Rev 11 are 350 years and that God purposely using the day symbol in this way so that many people would not accept the 270/1880 dates;
- that not keeping Restoration rules is sin and causes you to lose your salvation;

is a man made set of rules that finds no support in the Bible at all. Now let me ask you a question Bro Henry, and I do this with all respect, how can you feel clear in your soul making and enforcing rules that are not Bible based and tell people if they don't keep them they are sinning?

I shared my amazement with you about one and a half year ago when I was working on your computer in your home office and you asked me what I would do with members that were disobeying the ministries counsel to not go on the Internet. At that time I told you I don't see how you can tell a person they are sinning for going on the Internet when you yourself are going on the Internet on regular bases yourself. How can you charge a person with sin for doing the very same thing you are doing?

I again voice my amazement on how a rational thinking person can go to the doctor and get teeth work done and take medication (local anesthetic) , hold that it is ok to go to the doctor to get broken bones set and take medication (local anesthetic), hold that it is ok for children and young people to under 18 to go to the doctor for any medical need and then turn around and tell a mother giving birth that has complications that it is sinful and wrong for her to go to the doctor. I have voiced my strong objection to this teaching to you before and will voice it again. Such a teaching is ludicrous.

If you claim that the Bible teaches that doctors and medication are sinful then you need to practice it. Since you make many exceptions let me ask you this. Can you show me in the Bible where it teaches not to take any medical care and if you can do that can you show me support in the Bible for so many exceptions? I think not.

Keep in mind brother Henry I have watched this play its self out over 20 plus years. While I think it is fine if people don't want to take medication or visit the doctor but I strongly disagree that the ministry should teaching it is wrong and sinful to do so and then try to pressure members into this position.

>>>*Remember, the unity is what Jesus prayed for in Joh. 17.*

Dear brother that is unity with what the Bible teaches not in unity with unwritten rules as is the case of the Restorations anti-medical teaching.

>>>*I wish you could hear some of Bro. John's exhortations.*

With all due respect brother Henry what carries weight with me is what the Word of God teaches. Not a man's testimony for manmade rules and I say that with all due respect with reference to your deceased brother. You will find no where in the New Testament where it teaches not to take

tions either in precept or by principle we cannot break fellowship with another believer and remain clear with the Lord. When people start cutting off other believers over the standards they have setup that have no support in the Bible by precept or principle they will need to stop professing to be anti-sectarian as they have just become more sectarian than the sectarians.

Since I advised you in Feb of 2007 of my position concerning your teaching the congregation to refuse medical help even if it means dying, you have told me I am not spiritual, implied that I am not sanctified, made me a visitor, have asked be to act like a visitor and implied that I shouldn't call songs in meeting or to pray out in meeting and not long ago you asked me to not share during Sunday school. Further you have told me that I should only testify in meetings that you are present in and when doing that to be short and just to thank God for the one true church.

You have asked me not to pass out literature and you have asked me not to reach out and visit people in the community with the aim of helping them spiritually. And I should note that it is my understand that these above actions you took are not because I am or have received medical care or am taking medicine (as I am not) but because I hold that it is okay to take medical care in areas that the Restoration teach a person shouldn't.

I want you to know that I strongly disagree with all these steps you have taken and I consider them the fruit of the same sectarian spirit that got a hold of Diotrephes that in its full manifestation caused him to not receive some brethren and to cast others out of the church and slander their Christian experience by claiming there were not spiritual or saved. I say this carefully, prayerfully and not in haste. I believe the Restoration is at risk of being so rule centric that they will become more sectarian than the sectarians by cutting people off and casting them out of the assembly for not keeping rules that we find nothing of in the Bible by way of injunction or principle and the hero's of the Christian faith knew nothing of.

You have no problem going to the doctor for teeth, for getting your bones set, or to take medication to deaden your nerves for these things. You have no problem sending the children and young people from the congregation to the doctor for all things. Yet you hold that some one that thinks it is ok for adults to seek medical care for things you don't allow are not spiritual.

I am not sure how far you are going to take this. Will you soon tell me not to say amen, or to praise the Lord? Will you tell me not to talk to

visitors or new Christians? Will you tell me to stop coming to meeting until I change my position? Will you cut me off and tell me I am not saved? How far do you plan on taking this Bro Henry? (These questions are asked in all honesty and are not meant to be sarcastic or disrespectful.)

>>>*If the whole body is wrong then you have an obligation to show us by the Bible where it is.*

I don't think the whole body of the Restoration is wrong. The Restoration members are just following what the restoration ministry teaches them. Five years ago in most cases it would be considered sinful and wrong to provide medical attention for your children under 18 and if you did you risked being told you had sinned and needed to be saved and for the most part members followed this even to the point of a number of children dieing. Then the ministry changed the rules and told members in US and Canada that they must provide their children with medical attention required by the authorities and the Restoration members now follow that. So my disagreement is not with the Restoration members but with the ministry.

I expect down the road there will be further changes in the Restoration rules' concerning what is allowed medically and what is not allowed. Personally I think it is only a matter of time before some Restoration parents will be charged with voluntary manslaughter of an unborn child for recklessly manifesting extreme indifference to the life of their unborn child (that is how the charge is worded legally). At that point I expect the Restoration medical allowance rules will change. I would strongly suggest you act proactively and make this change in the rules before that comes about by requiring all expecting mothers to use the option of medical intervention where the life of the child is at risk and to employ experienced midwives (overseen 100's of births) for all births.

If the police had known all the facts in the failure of our home birth which caused the death of our son Levi, Susan and I could have been easily charged with voluntary manslaughter and I shamefully admit I feel like at least I would have been guilty. I have had to repent before the Lord for what the Restoration rules influenced me to do in that situation and Susan is still suffering emotionally and physically from that ordeal which is now 8 years ago.

As far as me having an obligation to show you where you are wrong by the Bible I think that is very easy to do.

The Restoration teaches those that receive most medical procedures and take most medicines are showing a lack of spirituality and faith in God

and are either living below the Bible standard or for those who have been in the Restoration long enough to know and accept what the Restoration teaches for divine healing have committed sin.

If the Bible teaches that it is wrong and sinful to have medical procedures or to take medicine then you can't make exceptions unless the Bible gives them by direct injunction or by principle. An example of a Biblical principle that forbids a medical procedure is where alcoholic wine is subscribed for thinning the blood of those that are in risk of blood clotting. Proverbs 20:1 says wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.

If you maintain that there are scriptural principles in the Bible that will help people decide what procedures are allowed and which ones are not I would ask you where the principle is in the Bible that would leave a person with the conclusion that the removal a deep rooted wisdom tooth with minor surgery is allowed by God but the removing a child for the womb with minor surgery is sinful.

When an exception is made for some people for all medical procedures and for all people for some medical procedures you have to provide clear injunctions or principles from the Word of God to deem the exceptions Biblically based. If you can't show support in the Bible for the exceptions you make either by clear injunction or by principle the teaching is weighted and found wanting.

In fact when we weight this teaching by the Word we will find principles that stand against this teaching. The Restoration teaches that all children under 18 are to be given all the medical procedures that are required by law in US and Canada.

The Bible teaches in principle that we are to train up a child in the way they should go. If taking medical care and medicine is sinful then this Bible principle teaches that no matter what we should not do this. It is human reasoning that teaches that we do the lesser of two evils. It is evil to take medicine but it is more evil to loose you children to the government's control so the Restoration chooses the lesser of the two evils. This is a good example of basing a teaching by human reasoning and not by Biblical injunction and principle. The very thing the Restoration claims they don't do.

Also I will point out that when the Restoration taught that it was wrong and sinful to give medical attention to children and children died because of that practice I was in disagreement and I voiced my objections to Bro. Layne. I rejoiced when that rule was changed and I consider the changing of that rule to be an admission of the Restoration being wrong and my position being right. As God never makes any exceptions with sin it is clear that the Restorations non-medical rule with it numerous exceptions