

ians may not participate in these secret societies, as there is a conflict with Biblical authority.

IV. A Conflict of Accountability

The first portion of 1 Peter 2:18 instructs the Church, 'Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear.' God has placed over all peoples proper authorities commensurate to their proper spheres: 'The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors, or equals' (WLC 126). God has established government in the Church, home and magistrate, as well as in one's vocation - all of which are under the kingship and dominion of the Lord Christ Jesus. Secret societies ascribe to themselves an authority that is neither granted to them by God's Word, nor carried out in a manner according to God's Word - namely, they carry out their presumed-authority secretly. This unbiblical manner of authority is the same as the leaven of the Pharisees' hypocrisy, to which Christ says: 'For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops' (Lk 12:2-3). Therefore, Christians may not participate in these secret societies, as there is a conflict with Biblical accountability.

V. A Conflict of Affiliation

In 2 Corinthians 6:15, Paul asks, 'And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?' The

answer implied is clear: None! No matter how good the intentions or purposes may appear, Christ cannot and does not have concord with Belial. Those who drink of the cup of the Lord and partake at the Lord's table cannot drink the cup of devils and partake of the table of devils. Dear Christian, secret societies, with their show of so-called tolerance and inter-faith cooperation are no less than the cup and table of devils! Those who are in Christ cannot have, according to the Scriptures, intimate fellowship and affiliation with such societies.

Conclusion

Therefore, in seeing that secret societies are but the cup and table of devils, Christians are commended to the following:

- 1) If you profess Christ, and yet are a member of such a group, repent of your sin and flee!
- 2) Do not even entertain a favourable thought of or conversation with these societies, lest you give way to temptation.
- 3) Elders of Christ's Church are to call forth and discipline members of the church who have yoked themselves to the bondage of these sinful societies.
- 4) Christians ought to warn with the Scriptures those they encounter who are members of secret societies of the evils of their affiliation.
- 5) The Church should not be shy regarding her positions on the evils and sins of her land, including the evils of secret societies.
- 6) Christians should pray for the destruction of the cup and table of devils that are secret societies.
- 7) Christians should pray for the light of the Gospel to go forth in these dark places.



Beware the Table of Devils: Against Secret Societies

A Pamphlet to Encourage
Believers & Covenant Families
in Living according to God's Word

*'Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the
cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the
Lord's table, and of the table of devils.'*

Introduction

1 Corinthians 10:21 says, 'Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.' The temptation is seemingly great these days for Christians to 'compartmentalize' their obedience to the Lord. Perhaps they say, 'I can be a member of such and such a group, but surely it would not affect my carrying out the vows of my Church membership.' But this is not so concerning secret societies. These are the table of devils, dear Christian; and their worship is the cup of devils. Thus, the *Testimony* of the RPCNA rightly states, 'Christians should walk in the light. Their beliefs, purposes, manner of life, and their rules of action and conduct should be based on the Word of God and should not be concealed. Oath-bound societies usually involve an improper requirement of secrecy, aims which are immoral, intimate fellowship with unbelievers or participation in unbiblical worship. Membership in such organizations is inconsistent with a Christian profession, however good their announced purposes may be' (*Testimony xxv.19*). May this pamphlet demonstrate five conflicts such secret societies have with the Christian life, and thus exhort Christians to be forewarned and forearmed concerning these tables of devils.

I. A Conflict of Worship

In Matthew 15:9, the Lord Christ rebukes the Pharisees and scribes, saying, 'But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' This is exactly what rites and rituals are before the Almighty God: vain worship, the commandments of men passing off as so-called harmless doctrines.

Active participation in, or 'mere' toleration of, the rituals of secret societies is a persistent and flagrant violation of the second commandment, which forbids 'all devising, counselling, commanding, using, and any wise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; tolerating a false religion . . . corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others' (*Westminster Larger Catechism*, 109). Therefore, Christians may not participate in these secret societies, as there is a conflict with Biblical worship.

II. A Conflict of Allegiance

The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, reminds the Church in Romans 12:5, 'So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.' The Christian's allegiance is firstly to the LORD God (Mt 22:37-38), then to God's Church (Gal 6:10), and then accordingly to the stations and vocations in which God has providentially placed him. However, an oath-bound society circumvents and subverts this hierarchy by encouraging allegiance to perform all required duties before the explanation of such duties. The Christian is bound by the Word of God, which is to be regularly read by and preached to all. There is no secrecy of allegiance for the Church of God. The Word of God is light shining forth in the darkness, and Christians are to live in like manner: 'Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.' (1 Thes 5:5). The duties and rituals of secret societies are further obfuscated by layers and degrees of so-called privilege and rank. But it is not so in the Christian Church.

The Word of God is clear and for all - 'The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple' (Psa 119:30). Again, 'For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus' (Gal 3:27-28). Thus, in demanding allegiance at the table of devils, secret societies sin against the Law of God concerning the right hierarchy of the Christian's loyalty at the expense of the light, perspicuity and accessibility of God's Word. Therefore, Christians may not participate in these secret societies, as there is a conflict with the Biblical principles of the Christian's allegiance.

III. A Conflict of Authority

'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them' (Isaiah 8:20). The truth of this verse, which is a fundamental truth of the whole Christian religion is summarized in the *Westminster Larger Catechism*, Question 7: 'The holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.' There are a multiplicity of laws (whether they be civil, vocational, etc), but all are subject to the express commands, inferences and general principles of the Word of God. Secret societies may give lip-service to a tolerance of the true faith and worship of God, but their rituals and regulations deny the Scriptures by their binding the consciences of their members. Christians cannot be under such yoke of slavery, for 'We ought to obey God rather than men' (Acts 5:29). Therefore, Christ-