

## What's Wrong With It?

"What's wrong with it?" There is not a responsible person alive who has not heard this question. Sometimes, the sentiment is expressed as a statement such as, "I don't see anything wrong with it." The question and the statement reflect the faulty assumption that what has not been shown to be wrong must be right. This attitude, which seems prevalent even among some Christians, also seeks to place the burden of proving that a thing is wrong upon those who believe and teach what the Bible says about the distinctive nature of Christianity and its unique views on character, ethics, morality and behavior. In other words, some people view the door to action to be open when a condition of ignorance exists (Jn. 3:19-21). A few variations that I have heard (all of them from Christians) follow: "I will go where I want and dress like everyone else, because I see nothing wrong with it." "I will do what I wish, because everyone else does it and I see nothing wrong with it." "I see nothing wrong with denominationalism or fellowshipping denominations." "I see nothing wrong with using mechanical or electronic instruments of music in worship." "I see nothing wrong with abortion." "I see nothing wrong with women preachers."

The appropriate question is not, "what's wrong with it?" but rather, "what's right with it?" Occasionally, someone will argue that "...where there is no law there is no transgression (Rom. 4:15)," ignoring the context. They erroneously conclude that what is not specifically condemned is authorized, and that God does not legislate in general terms. Nonetheless, general legislation which establishes conditions for Christian decision making is evident. There is law. *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17a)."* *"Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil (I Thes. 5:21-22)."* *"...for whatever is not from faith is sin (Rom. 14:23b)."* These verses demand that we ask not of what is wrong with it?" but rather, "what is right with it?" This is the positive approach.

Until we can defend a thing to the extent that it is proven to be right, we do not know enough about it to take chances which would jeopardize our souls, or the souls of those who look to us for leadership and counsel. "I don't see anything wrong with it" is a cop out, and is an admission of ignorance (see Hosea 4:1-7). The conscientious person will study God's word until he is certain that what he is doing is right, or he will not do it. Christians are to be "righteous," which is the condition of being "right," not based upon self-merit, but upon faithful obedience to Christ. Seeing nothing wrong with something certainly does not prove it to be right. With our souls at stake, we cannot afford to be wrong.

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