

Breaking Up Is Hard

By Ronald L. Dart

Breaking up a marriage is hard. It is hard to do and it is hard on the people who do it. But if you do break up, it may be harder on those who depend on you than it is on you. Think about the children of divorce. Over a third of men and women in their 20s, ten years after their parent's divorce, have little or no ambition. They are drifting through life with no set goals, limited education, and an abiding sense of helplessness.

Now consider the children and teens of broken churches, along with all those who depend on the church for any reason—the elderly, the lonely, the infirm. All these get hurt a lot worse than the people who are provoking the breakup.

There may come a time when you must break up with someone, but you had better be right. The cost can be high and while you may never know just how high it was, you can be sure it will be laid to your account. If, as Jesus said, men will be held accountable in the judgment for every idle word they speak, how much more will we be held accountable for the little ones who are hurt by our decisions. So you must not only be right, you have to be sure it is worth the cost.

People Will Get Hurt

Someone once said, "If you think marriage is hard, wait until you try divorce." Much divorce is for purely selfish reasons. No one seems to think about the kids. People even use the kids to punish the spouse. Far be it from me to judge anyone for a divorce or even for a broken church. I have never had a divorce, but I have had to leave a church from a position of leadership—twice. How one conducts oneself in that terrible eventuality is really crucial. And one of the most crucial things is that you have good and sufficient reason for what you are doing—because people are inevitably going to get hurt.

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Make A Difference

If you're looking for new ministry opportunities, consider CEM and the *Born to Win* broadcast. Among our greatest financial challenges are large broadcasting expenses. Every dollar helps in getting the Gospel out. We invite you to share in this ministry. Your donations can make a real difference! To serve you better and save you time and trouble, CEM is taking a survey to measure interest in using the Automated Clearing House (ACH) service. If you are interested in using this service and making automatic monthly contributions to CEM, please contact Larry Watkins at lsw@cemnetwork.com or call 1-888-BIBLE-44.

Judging Ourselves

By Lenny Cacchio

“Judge not, that ye be not judged” seems to be the Scripture of the age, even finding itself on the lips of a presidential candidate or two. We need to be tolerant of others, we’re lectured, otherwise we are bigots, and that’s something no caring society can tolerate. Judging has earned itself a bad name.

What is Tolerance?

I’m all for tolerance and refraining from condemning others. The problem is in the devil’s trick of redefining terms. Tolerance implies respect, fairness, and objectivity, but does not require agreement. I might be tolerant of different opinions and lifestyles, but feel no moral need to agree when investigation and analysis of the evidence informs that such positions are in error. This is not being intolerant. It is being in disagreement.

My tolerance of those who differ with me is born, not of acceptance of opinions or actions with which I disagree, but acceptance of other human beings as unique creations of God. When Jesus said, “Judge not that ye be not judged,” he was pointing his disciples to the irrefutable fact that we are all sinners, wrongdoers, in need of cleansing from our sins. We can’t see clearly to remove the speck from our brother’s eye because often we have beams sticking out of our own (Matthew 7:1-5).

Qualifying to Help

Jesus’ words do not deny the existence of wrongdoing. He is not

saying that wrongdoing is a tolerable thing. He is saying we are too often inadequate judges of others because we are beset with problems of our own. He is clear that once we clean up our own messes, we are actually in a better position to help others clean theirs. That’s why groups like Alcoholics Anonymous are quite successful in their mandate. People who are recovered are in a more understanding—yes, even tolerant—position to help those who are not.

The Apostle Paul’s less famous admonition that if “we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged” amplifies the principal in a more personal way (see 1 Corinthians 11:31). In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul addressed very real problems this church didn’t seem to recognize. Their dysfunction manifested itself in lawsuits between church members, tolerance of incest in their midst, gluttony and drunkenness at the Lord’s Supper, factions, heresies, raucous church meetings, and who knows what other problems that he puts off addressing until a planned visit to Corinth. “I’ll set in order the rest when I come” (v. 34).

Examine Yourself

This was a church that was surely tolerant of sinners (a necessity if there is going to be a church). The problem was its arrogant acceptance of sin itself. Paul tells them that, as a prerequisite to taking the symbols of Christ’s sacrifice, they must first examine themselves, lest

they risk eating the bread and taking the cup in an unworthy manner. They, each and every one, needed to find the wrongdoing in their own lives and purge the old leaven. They had to take responsibility and judge themselves. He tells them that if they judge themselves, they won’t be judged (v. 32).

And herein is a key to understanding Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 7. “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

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Jesus says if you condemn others as sinners and you are guilty of the same thing, you’ll be held to your own standards. But if you look at your own heart, admit your wrongdoing to God, and with his help overcome those faults, you will not be judged. In fact, God will not have to call your problems to your attention, which can sometimes be unpleasant.

I’m just saying that Jesus is not dismissing the concept of wrongdoing when he tells us not to judge. Rather, he is telling us to clean up our own act so that we do not dishonor his sacrifice by the way we live our lives.

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Wait on God

Years ago, when I was a young minister in another church organization, there were a few things I felt sure the church was wrong about, but I wasn't certain. There is almost always some degree of ambiguity in Scripture, sometimes there is even a paradox. This may require us to make decisions with imperfect evidence. So, I told myself that our leader had been on the air preaching the Gospel since the very day I was born. "He may be wrong about this," I thought to myself, "but what if he isn't?" From a dispassionate point of view, the odds were in his favor. "And think how silly and presumptuous I will look if he turns out to be right. I will wait for God to make it clearer."

I recall two significant differences with the old gentleman. In one case he was right, and the other, I had it right. But in both cases, I was right to wait. There came a time when I finally had to make the break with that church, but breaking up was hard, friends were lost forever and bridges were burned. There was no going back. I have only two regrets. One, that the break was necessary (and it really was). Two, I regret that people were hurt (and they really were). I don't spend much time looking back. I have learned better, but I have also learned that breaking up is hard on everybody.

I have also learned that the motives of people who break up and provoke breakups are often far from pure. King Solomon had

harsh words for these kinds of people, calling them scoundrels and villains. Of the man who stirs up dissension, Solomon said, "Disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy" (Proverbs 6:15 NIV). In a list of things that God hates, the climax comes with: "a man who stirs up dissension among brothers" (Proverbs 6:19 NIV).

Consider the Consequences

As you approach the difficult question of breaking with someone, be it a person or a church, there are three things you need to think about: 1) It probably can never be undone. 2) Be sure you are doing no harm. 3) People are going to be hurt—some of them children.

It is all but impossible to have a peaceful parting of ways. Whatever the issues, recriminations inevitably follow, and every explanation, every argument, every word spoken, adds bricks to the wall growing between brothers. Sometimes it is best to just lay your hand on your mouth, because once the wall gets too high, it can never be breached. Bridges, once burned, may never be rebuilt.

If you are thinking about a break, sit down and make a list of those who are likely to be hurt, discouraged, or disillusioned. Every one of those people will be laid to your account. Jesus tried to explain this to his disciples in answer to a question they asked him: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1). (This is instructive, because so many of the problems that arise between

brothers arise from the question of who is the greatest.)

So, Jesus called a little child over and set him in the midst of the disciples. "Except you become converted," he said, "and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). He called on his disciples to have a childlike humility and to strictly avoid offending little ones: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (v. 6). I can't think of anything he could have said that would have served as a more stern warning to those who cause others to stumble.

***But whoso shall offend
one of these little ones
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about his neck, and that
he were drowned in the
depth of the sea.***

If you find yourself facing a possible breakup, there are some things you should look out for in yourself. Here is partial list:

- self righteousness
- excessive pride
- selfishness
- an unforgiving spirit
- unwillingness to admit error
- being too quick to judge.

And here are three vital principles to keep in mind:

- The majority is not always right, but then neither is the minority.

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- Big is not always better, but then, neither is being small.
- Age does not always teach wisdom, but more often it does.

Right now, for example, 98 percent of Christians who observe the festivals of the Bible do so on the same calendar—including some of the most intelligent, most experienced, and some of the best scholars. All of them have studied the issue at great length. About two percent follow a different calendar, and less than half of these agree on which alternative calendar to follow.

Why are they doing this? Because they believe that is what God wants them to do. But if one stands apart and evaluates the situation, it seems that a little humility might be in order. If I can't convince some of the best minds around about this idea of mine, maybe I should wait until God makes it clearer before I split the church over it. Because splitting the church is exactly what you will do. And it will be a hard thing that you do. Hard on you and hard on others you haven't even thought about. Trust me. I know whereof I speak.

Dart's Dictum

There is one other little truth worth knowing. You don't have to be right about everything. You don't have to know the answers to everything. It is perfectly okay to say, "I don't know." I have said in the past that, although I have learned to be comfortable saying "I don't know," I hate to say it because as sure as I do, some know-it-all will come along and explain it to me.

And that has led me to Dart's Dictum of the Know-it-all. "Never argue with a know-it-all. Just tell him his argument is fantastic." You don't have to define the word for him, but you should know it: "Fantastic: based on fantasy: not real; b: conceived or seemingly conceived by unrestrained fancy; c: so extreme as to challenge belief." In one social setting I knew, "fantastic" was routinely used as a synonym for barnyard fertilizer.

The truth is that we don't have to agree on every little detail. Exhibit A is the CEM Feast of Tabernacles. We don't agree on a lot of things, but we do agree on keeping the Feast and worshipping God together. Nothing else seems necessary. And in a family, you may not need a divorce. You just may

need separate vacations—or, God forbid, separate bedrooms. Winston Churchill and his wife slept in separate bedrooms. Each of them had some space. For the sake of the children, separate beds and separate vacations are a lot better than divorce.

***Never argue with a
know-it-all. Just tell him
his argument is fantastic.***

In a church, we need to know how we are going to work together and arrive at decisions that affect all of us. We don't have to agree on everything to have unity. Some of you have doctrinal ideas that I can only describe as fantastic, but I love you anyway and I can wash your feet or stand next to you and sing "All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name." How can I do this? Because I take Paul seriously when he says: "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3 NIV).

Weekend Online Bible Study

Ron Dart has just wrapped up 13 episodes of the Book of Mark in a Bible Study. We invite you to join us as he starts a new series that you will not want to miss. All you have to do is to go to www.borntowin.net, look under "What's New" on the front page and click on Weekend Bible Study. You can hear the Bible expounded verse by verse in an inspirational and educational way. Your questions can be sent in and Mr. Dart will gladly answer them. What a wonderful way to begin the Sabbath! Join us and grow in grace and knowledge.

Accessing borntowin.net Made Easier

By R. Gerald Saul

People like you have let us know they have had difficulty finding information on our website. You may be missing a treasure-trove of materials from which you can greatly benefit. So let's discuss a couple features of borntowin.net that can make accessing inspirational, biblical, and educational material easier for you. This month, I want to focus on the two largest sections of content on the *Born to Win* website.

Born to Win Radio Programs

Choose the Radio Archives link from the navigation menu (the green or teal sidebar on the left) of the homepage and you'll get immediate access to the radio programs we've aired this week and last. If you're looking for a program by a particular title or by the date it aired, you can use the search feature at the top of the page. Then searching by date, select the *year* first, then the *month* that interests you. The page will refresh and you should have links to all of the programs that aired in that month. There have been over 750 *Born to Win* broadcasts recorded to date, and of those, more than 500 are available on our website, with more being added all the time! All of these programs are downloadable *FREE* and can be sent around the world in a matter of minutes.

A Way You Can Help

This is one way you can help. If you like a program, just click on the small envelope to the right to send an email recommending it to a friend. You can even send it to yourself and then forward it to your entire email address list if you think it is warranted. Another helpful thing is to click on the "rate it" link and offer your comments on the program. This often helps people who are searching the program list, and is helpful in determining which program they want to hear.

CEM Learning Center

And, while CEM's forte is the *Born to Win* program, we also have a great collection of essays by Mr. Dart and other writers. By visiting the Learning Center link on the homepage, you'll have easy access to Mr. Dart's essays, the CEM Internet Forum, the *Living to Win* newsletter, and so much more. You will find the link to the Learning Center in two places: 1) at the bottom of the homepage (along with links to a great deal of valuable content!); and 2) in the navigation sidebar on the left side of the homepage. Watch for more in future columns. If you have problems, email me at gerald@borntowin.net, and I will be happy to help you.

Special CD Offer

Gospel of John Series

Do you have an image in your mind's-eye of God the Father sitting on the throne and Jesus Christ at His right hand? Do you imagine two persons or two individuals, and the Holy Spirit as a Ghost (but you don't see ghosts)? John presents us with an astonishing theology about the Son of Man and the Son of God. The Jews knew Jesus was claiming divinity. Greek and Roman theologians were moving into a polytheistic world, how did they avoid the stigma of polytheism while recognizing that Jesus was God in the flesh? The result: The doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine has become the litmus test to determine if you are Christian. Gain clarity to this conundrum by hearing this series of stimulating and thought-provoking messages. The price for this six-CD album has been drastically reduced until July 1, 2008. You can now have this album regularly priced at \$28.95 for only \$19.00. Don't put this down until you fill-in the enclosed order card to get this special price on this powerful testimony of Jesus Christ.

What Does Pentecost Mean to You?

By Allie Dart

When you noticed the word “Pentecost” in the title of this article, what came to mind? Did you think of people speaking in gibberish, unknown tongues? Did you think of a particular church that teaches you have to have your “baptism with fire” to make it into heaven or God’s Kingdom? Did you immediately assume that Pentecost was an Old Testament festival which was “nailed to the cross” and Christians are no longer obligated to celebrate this feast day? Do you know there is an *urgent responsibility* for every Christian hidden in this Festival? Do you understand what that responsibility is?

Your concept of the Feast of Pentecost probably has a lot to do with your present or previous church affiliation. This is one biblical holiday that many Christians do observe. In England, it is called Whitsunday, or White Sunday, because of the custom of wearing white after baptism. But many American churches seem blissfully unaware of the Festival and the unique message for them.

After Jesus was crucified and rose from the grave, he gave instructions to his disciples: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (italics added, Acts 1:4-5, 7-8 NIV). After Jesus finished saying these things, he was taken up in the clouds before their very eyes.

You know the story of the disciples coming together of one accord. You’ve read how a mighty wind rushed through the building, tongues of fire rested on each one, all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages that every person heard in their native tongue. Peter then preached a sermon about how Christ was crucified for their sins, and was resurrected the third day. Everyone was personally convicted of having crucified Christ.

The Holy Spirit is a powerful gift to get the Gospel out. But why was it given on Pentecost? Pentecost was not a stand alone festival. It was the 50th day of the harvest begun seven weeks prior to this. “It started with the offering of the first of the firstfruits to God at the same moment that the resurrected Jesus was presented to the Father on the morning after his resurrection. . .

“So for the early Christians the connection was almost automatic. They saw very clearly and very quickly what all this meant. . .” (*The Thread, God’s Appointments With History*, by Ronald L. Dart).

So what did it mean? The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost to empower Christ’s church—to do a work and produce a

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The Lie Inside

FREE OFFER

Many attribute the fall of the Soviet Union to the fact that the government lost control of information. At one time, virtually all information reaching the public was under governmental control. In the USSR, popularization of the fax machine was the first step in the fall of the government. In July 1989, Interfax started independent news coverage of the USSR. In November that year, the Berlin Wall fell.

For the first time in history there is more information than we can assimilate. In 1970 Alvin Toffler in *Future Shock* coined the phrase “Information Overload” to describe this—not so much in religion, but in society as a whole. Do you realize how this impacts our lives and the potential problems it includes? You don’t have to be a conspiracy theorist to realize the powerful are lying to us. They think lies are justified by the good they are trying to accomplish. “The end justifies the means” is one of the oldest and most vile excuses for political corruption.

The legalization of abortion is an example. Statistics are used to show that without legal abortions, women will be forced into back alleys for abortions and a high percentage will die. Statistics are used, but with what accuracy and to what end? The shocking truth in this *FREE CD* will surprise you. There is enormous value in living in the information age, but you need to understand the great danger that comes with any new power. Check the enclosed card and return it to us to get a *FREE CD* of this insightful *Born to Win* program.

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harvest. The Holy Spirit equipped those early Christians to be witnesses, beginning right where they were, spreading out to surrounding areas, and going to the ends of the earth. But to what end were they to witness? Pentecost is also called the Feast of First Fruits—a harvest festival of souls converted and baptized. The people we witness to—share the Gospel of Christ—and bring to repentance and baptism are fruits we bear. The lesson in Pentecost is that every Christian has a responsibility to bear fruit. How do they do this? Through personal evangelism.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).

You can gain a more thorough understanding of the Feast of Pentecost and the Festivals of the Bible by reading *The Thread, God's Appointments With History*, by Ronald L. Dart. CEM also offers *50 Days of Evangelism, From Passover to Pentecost*. This is a seven lesson how-to book with a companion leader's guide which will inspire you and show you how to do personal evangelism with details you've never considered before. Call 1-888-BIBLE-44 today to order your copies of these books.

Letters From Our Listeners

"Dear Mr. Dart: I'm a believing and practicing Jewish woman who greatly enjoys listening to "Born to Win"! It has helped in my understanding of the links that the Jewish and Christian faiths have to each other—it's enlightened me enormously! ALL schools (public, parochial and private) should teach the history of Judaism and Christianity for at least one year of intensive study. Mr. Dart - I also enjoy your delivery of the sermons: unpretentious and straightforward. Continued success to you!"

I have been listening to your program on WXJC in Birmingham and just wanted to let you know I appreciate your broadcast. I have very much enjoyed the teaching and explanations of the book of Daniel. I hope you have great success with your ministry and radio program. MS

"Dear Mr. Dart, I want to thank you so much for your radio ministry. I recently stumbled onto your broadcast and was thrilled with what I was hearing. The truth! I was brought up in a Pentecostal church and was always puzzled by many of the things we were taught. As an adult, I began studying the Bible in depth and was amazed that many of the things we were indoctrinated with have no biblical basis (i.e. Pre-trib rapture). Most of these non-truths are still being taught in the fundamental circles today, as you know. It is so refreshing to hear someone speak the word in truth without bending it or distorting it." TRB, Portland, OR

"Just wanted to let you know that this Sermon was so very very helpful This day so clearly says: That in Christ we live and move and have our being. We are indeed reconciled by His Death and saved by His Life. Thank you Ron, your sermons are making a real difference in my life and enabling me to grow into a deeper understanding of the Love, Grace and Holiness of God" AP, Waihi, New Zealand.



Radio Update

Glenwood Springs, CO

KGLN 980 AM
Sunday 7:30 a.m.

Norfolk, VA

WYRM 1110 AM
M-F 12:30 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m.

Jackson, TN

WTNE 97.7 FM
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Orlando, FL

WEUS 810 AM
M-F 5:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m.*

*Starting June 1

Calendar of Events

Memorial Day Weekend Family Retreat will be held at the Paris Landing State Park, Buchanan, TN on the beautiful banks of Kentucky Lake. The grand event begins with a Meet and Greet at 6 p.m. May 23rd. Weather permitting, look for us in the pavilion where sandwiches, chips, and drinks will be furnished by CEM. A full, inspirational, productive, and fun weekend has been planned beginning Sabbath morning with Seminars and YEA classes for kids three to 20. Ronald L. Dart will conduct the worship service Sabbath afternoon. More fun and fellowship are scheduled throughout the afternoon and evening. Sunday will be more of the same. After more YEA classes and seminars Monday morning, Ronald Dart will close the retreat and send us home with God's blessings. We hope you will make it. To book your accommodations call 1-800-250-8614 and give CEM's group number 3355.

YEA Summer Camp, June 22-29 will be held at Camp Wewoka Woods, near Wewoka, OK. Teens who will be 13 and have not yet turned 19 by June 29, 2008, regardless of their church affiliation, may apply by contacting Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE-44 or lsw@cemnetwork.com.

Penteost, watch www.borntowin.net for details about where the Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated in the Tyler area.

More Letters From Our Listeners

"This morning brought the news that CEM HAS REMOVED THE *Born to Win* program from KAAY 1090 AM in Little Rock, Arkansas. While I am deeply disappointed that *Born to Win* has been removed from the local station, I understand that your resources are limited and they must be focused on markets that produce the most fruit. I have been blessed to hear *Born to Win* and my understanding of GOD's word has greatly increased due to the teachings of Ronald Dart. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear the program and I have enthusiastically supported the CEM ministry. I will pray that CEM will continue to put forth the Gospel of Jesus and that each of you will be blessed to overflowing" LG **

**Note: You can always go to www.borntowin.net and hear the broadcast.

"I've been wanting to drop you a note, just to keep in touch, but more than that I wanted to let you know how much I am enjoying your book, *Law & Covenant*. It's the most insightful book I have read on the Law. Great work and many thanks!
GRAustralia

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*That the man of God may be proficient
and equipped for every good work.*