

Church in Akron's Response to Benson Phillips' E-mail

[NOTE: Brother Benson Phillips sent an E-mail to the Church in Akron responding to Akron's stand on the "Warning Letter" of quarantine. The following is Akron's reply]

Brother Benson,

Thank you for your "form letter" of concern for us. (At least 5 other churches received virtually identical letters – probably more. Only the name of the locality was changed.) Below is our response:

1. If you had really read our letter, you would realize that our response was based on more than your "Warning letter." It was also based on your refusal to fellowship over the many genuine concerns that we expressed to you in our earlier correspondence. Once again, your email fails to respond to those concerns.
2. We find it hard to believe that you were willing to waste the time of 900 elders and responsible brothers to publicly roast Brother Titus for 5 hours. It is even more outrageous that you would circulate a DVD of this event. Problems you had with him should have been dealt with in private fellowship. He requested such fellowship, and so did we. You chose to ignore our requests and go public. The day will come that you will have to answer to the Lord for the division that your action is causing.
3. We agree with Brother Lee's statement that "people change." We have known Brother Titus intimately for many years. He has not changed. It is our feeling that it is you who have changed, and that you are today leading the churches into exclusive denominationalism. We do not wish to follow you there.
4. Your thought that some could act in the nature of Korah indicates that you think of yourself as acting in the nature of Moses. Let us assure you, Brother Benson, that you are not Moses. We put you more in the category of those Paul wrote about in Galatians 2:4-6, 4:17, and 6:12-13. We have witnessed the many fleshly, divisive attacks you have directed against the churches in Mansfield and Columbus through your subordinates Chris Yap and Tim Knoppe. (Do you think we don't know how you gave them direction via conference calls in Iowa and elsewhere?) We hear firsthand reports of similar attacks against other churches. You must realize that this has caused you to lose all credibility among the saints here. If your concern for us was real, you would call off your religious attack dogs and issue a public apology and repentance to the dear saints that you have harmed in all these places. The things that you do in secret we hear from the rooftops.
5. We love the ministries of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. They brought us the truth according to the Bible, and they taught us to live according to it. You brothers are acting today in a way that shames the ministries and memories of each of these brothers, even while you say you are faithful followers. Neither did or would have done what you have chosen to do. You have narrowed the scope of fellowship to the point that we are in real danger of becoming a denomination. You have divided churches and families. You have turned saints against their elders and given them the fleshly thought of taking over meeting halls. None of these things have anything to do with Brother Titus. These are your doing. You brothers are acting in a way that is not according to the truth, and we must be faithful to say so. May the Lord have mercy on His churches.

Will Graphenreed
The church in Akron

Joseph Kuo

Carey Metcalf

David Shields