

Conforming to God's Will #2

by Robert Hatfield

God has set the parameters. He has said to “deny” some things and to “deny not” other things. Last week’s article examined those things which Christians are to deny; now the attention is placed on those things which ought not be denied.

Deny not God or Jesus, His Son. Those who commit such sin are described as “ungodly men” (Jude 4). Those who deny God and Christ are false teachers, and “bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Pet. 2:1); John said that they are liars and antichrist (1 John 2:22-23). Peter, one of Jesus’ own followers, claimed that he would not deny the Lord, but did deny Him — three times (Mat. 26:75)! Jesus said, “But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 10:33). To deny God and Christ is to deny Their ability to save the lost world; to deny the Divine Deity is to count for naught the greatest gift ever given (cf. Rom. 5:8-9)! However, many people who claim to be Christians act as if they have never met Jesus Christ. These people live their lives day in and day out with no consideration of morals or biblical guidance. To act in this way is to deny a relationship with God and Christ!

Deny not the power of the gospel / “the faith.”

The inspired apostle Paul was clear: “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Tim. 3:5). “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Tim. 5:8). Jesus said, “I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth” (Rev. 2:13). The term used in Scripture, “the faith,” simply refers to the doctrine of Christ, or the gospel. The gospel is *powerful*; it is able to lead man to salvation (Rom. 1:16). It is described as living, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). Every word is inspired of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17), thus to deny the gospel is to deny and limit God’s power.

Deny not in works. Paul wrote to Titus, “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16). Those who are truly obeying the Bible will have a life that reflects God and Christ in every aspect. Christians’ words will match their actions. They will not be hypocritical, but will put into practice that which they teach, as did Jesus (Acts 1:1).

[www. East Hill Church .org](http://www.EastHillChurch.org)

From *The East Hill News*
Published by the East Hill Church of Christ
P.O. Box 329 • Pulaski, TN 38478
(931) ~ 363-2777