The Doctrine of Pharisees & Sadducees

In countries like Indonesia, female genital mutilation ensures pre-marital virginity and inhibits extra-marital sex, because it reduces women's libido. Women fear the pain of re-opening the vagina, and are afraid of being discovered if it is opened illicitly. However, there are women who allow this to occur because it is believed that it will call them to another level of pure motherhood—a motherhood not tainted by sexuality and that is why the woman gives it away to become the matron, respected by everyone. If *this type of practice is enforced toward others, it would be one of the climatic examples of the doctrine of Pharisees and Sadducees.*

**BACKGROUND**

- **Sadducees and Pharisees:**
  - Matthew 22:23
    - Sadducees believe there is no resurrection, no angel or spirit; Acts 23:8
    - Pharisees acknowledge them both.
- **Doctrine & Leaven of the Pharisees/Sadducees (derived from Matthew 12, 15, 16, 23)**
  - **Definition:** The doctrine of Pharisees and Sadducees is the humanistic endeavor to be holy and righteous without God. (It is man's best religion or religion of humanism.) It is the extrinsic solution of rules/laws (enforced on everyone) that is not evil before God if broken yet carried with a whip, religious traditions that do not lead to the knowledge of God or love for people (Luke 11:42), and it is the talents that are used to build a tower of Babel or clanging cymbals (1 Cor 13) for an intrinsic problem of the heart that only God can solve.
    - The gospel of Christ is God’s endeavor to make us holy and righteous with God through faith. It is the invitation to die to yourself and take up the cross to follow Christ, seek for the knowledge of God and to love people as yourself, and to use the talents that God give to build up His Kingdom as we serve one another in love for the transformation of our lives and others.
- **Terry Bennett’s WORD on the ENCOUNTER IN 2001:**
  - An angel name Gabe on more than one occasion to Terry Bennett. He came to spoke about the number 666. One of the things he brought out was that number and referencing to the number of man. This is *man demonically energized* in the areas of economy, political, and religion.

\*Teachings on Matthew 15:1-20 and Matthew 16:1-12\*

1) **Matthew 15:1-20**
   a) Similar story: Mark 7:1-23
   b) John 15:18-27 is Christ’s exhortation to the disciples toward the religion of humanism
   c) Luke 6:39;

2) **Matthew 16:1-12 (similar account to Matthew 12:22-45)**
   a) Mark 8:15-21 A different account addressing how God has been releasing creative miracles with or without their resource.
   b) Luke 11:16-54 (Key verse: 42 about justice and love)
   c) Luke 12:24-40

3) **Characteristics of the Doctrine of Pharisees and Sadducees**
   a) Doubt of God- Matthew 16:1-4, 5-12; Matt 12:22-45
      i) For the unbeliever: doubt of every type of witness of God; unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit. Matt 12:32
      ii) For the believer: doubt of the miracles of God. Matthew 16:6-12
   b) Lack of true discernment of what is pure and evil. Matthew 16:3 – Pharisees and Sadducees
   c) Hardness of the heart from giving into mercy – Matthew 19:9 in the basis of divorce.
d) Human’s rules, traditions or commandments that hinder us from obeying and walking in the ways of God or causing us to forget God’s ways even though they appear to be godly – Matthew 15:6-9. They look like godly fruits but they are not. If the rules are set as priority or enforced over the ways of God, they will produce ungodly fruits.

i) They offend people in nature for those who see a form of sin but they are not evil before God because He is able to discern our hearts (Luke 16:15).

(1) Matthew 15:2 tradition of washing hands among the elders when they eat bread to be pure.

(2) Matthew 17:24-27 called for obligation to give to the temple tax.

(3) John 6:54-68 “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life.” This is a form of cannibalism and yet God used it to display the depth of the intention on what is pure.

(4) **SUMMARY:** They can be rules and regulations that are our own personal preferences to help us walk in the ways of God and others but if we end up placing them as priorities over the nature of God, they become doctrines of Pharisees and Sadducees. **They happen when we try to find an extrinsic solution to an intrinsic problem.** They occur because people have a need to be loved but cannot reach out in love.

(a) Examples of extrinsic solutions to an intrinsic problem that causes more problems in the Body of Christ:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Extrinsic solution:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Idea behind the rule:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Causes a possible problem for the gospel if not flexible:</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No dancing in the church.</td>
<td>Be respectful and considerate to others who may generally be worshipping God in quietness.</td>
<td>Other people cannot express their form of worship before God and jubilee in the Lord.</td>
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| Do no eat in the church during service. (Luke 6:3-5) | ❖ Makes things dirty  
❖ Helps people become attentive | Someone who has been healed of anorexia may not be able to display that he/she is healed. |
| Lock the doors 15 minutes after service starts | ❖ Build discipline to be respectful of other people’s times and the leaders that want to build up everyone else.  
❖ Builds value for the service. | The gospel cannot go to the demon-possessed who cannot get to church or the drunkards may not have this type of discipline. |
| Girls minister to girls while men minister to men. | ❖ Protect the women from lustful men. Protect the men from promiscuous women. | How can the gospel go to the men in other countries where the majority of women are being sent out as missionaries? |
| Do not disciple the opposite sex. | ❖ Protect the women from lustful men. Protect the men from promiscuous women. | How will women be discipled if Jesus only had the twelve male disciples? Does that mean that women Christians do not need heed the commandments for disciples? |
| Women must dress appropriately. | ❖ Protect the woman from being vulnerable to lustful men.  
❖ Protect the man from lustful thoughts. | How can the gospel be reached to the African tribes where women are topless if our men have lustful hearts? |

(5) **SUMMARY:** What we call as order in the church is many times is rooted in our inability to love by taking the fast-food route to address deeper human needs.

ii) Stick to the human rules over the responses of love.
iii) Example:
   (1) Much of socialism and communism is a form of reaching for the Acts 2 community for unity but without the Holy Spirit that transforms our hearts.
   (2) Religions, like Islam, are very similar to the commandments of men as well.

4) Fruits of them: Matthew 23
   a) Seeks to destroy a ministry or its reputation (Matt 12:14).
   b) Seek to find fault (Mark 7:2; Luke 6:7).
   c) Setting obligation of burdens hard to bear (Luke 11:46).
   d) Fear.
      i) Separation from sinners because of fear of being tainted by the lifestyle of sin around sinners.
   e) Punishment for breaking the rules that are not sinful before God (injustice).
      i) Jesus Christ was punished.
   h) Testing the believer, in this case- Jesus, from a perspective of doubt.
      i) To test is to question in a way to find fault with them in your theology or to entangle them in the talk or where there is self-contradiction or to trap them in their words. Matthew 22:15-21
      ii) Luke 11:53 to cross-examine the beliefs out of anger and offense.
   i) Sending spies to find out about who you are in your identity and finding out about your practices to seek to destroy your ministry rather than to discern if it is from God from the fruits that bear forth. John 1:19-26 “I am the voice in the wilderness...”; Luke 20:20
   i) Matthew 23:8-12
      (1) V. 10 “And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.”
   j) Anger for losing its reputation and its voice when another ministry does well. John 12:19
   k) Seeks after condemnation over mercy first. John 8:5 woman caught in adultery.
   m) Spirit of humanism will be added seven times worst for each generation that rejects the gospel of Christ.
      Matthew 12:45
      i) Luke 12: “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body (referring to the Pharisees), and after that have no more that they can do. * But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

5) The Ways to Protect Yourself and those that you serve from it:
   a) Seek God for discernment and the revelation of our inheritance through prayer and fasting out of hunger for God.
         (1) James, John, and Peter were not able to know God’s will in the way that He showed Himself in glory because they did not respond in the invitation to pray and fast for the faith required to understand the depth of the revelation. Because of not seeking God for the visions that were shown to them of Him in glory, they applied it in an evil way. They had a form of godliness of that as of Elijah that called down fire from heaven but they applied it not toward the Baals of the world but toward the people of whom Christ would die for. This is an example of a form of godliness but they had no transformational power that changed their hearts within.
         (2) Because of offenses of our lives, we may end up leaving from following Christ. (John 6:41-69)
ii) The time is coming and has come when God is using His people to offend the forms of godliness that even His disciples live by to raise the revelation of holiness in His true disciples.

(1) Many of those who considered themselves disciples were offended by the allegorical form of Christ’s communion. “Eat My flesh and drink My blood.” (John 6:41-69)

(2) There is nothing unclean of itself. All things are pure to those that are pure.

(a) “To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.” (Titus 1)

(b) FORM OF UNGODLINESS that is not evil

(i) A form of ungodliness in our generation today that is truly not a sin that God can use to offend people is God touching people physically, and they begin to physically move like crazy as that of the descriptions of demons convulsing people and God frees them. Yet, they are believers that bear forth good fruits of the Holy Spirit.

(ii) A form of ungodliness that will begin to unravel soon, if it has not yet, is using sex to describe worship between God and His Church.

(b) FORM OF GODLINESS THAT IS EVIL in the church

(i) Any of the above examples are forms of godliness that are evil in the church if the heart has not been transformed.

b) Meditate on the heavenly things: Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

i) There are disciples that the Lord is raising up that has such a faith that will challenge the Baals of this world, challenge the hypocrisy and the doctrine of Pharisees and Sadducees in the Church that imprisons the believers from true love relationship with God, and challenge the culture of our nations to call for true purity found in the knowledge of God because they continue to hunger and thirst for righteousness.

c) Not having fear to confront the doctrine of Pharisees and Sadducees in truth.

i) For those that bear fruits of the religion of humanism, do not be afraid to offend with the truth.

(1) Luke 13: 31,32 ("...tell that fox")

(2) For those that just do not know and seeks to understand the things of God, respond in love. Romans 14:21 Give up certain privileges and rights for the sake of growing people who seeks to know God in love.

d) Be faithful to God in the discipline of protecting your heart to continue to burn for God. Repetition is not faithfulness. Faithfulness is obedience to God.

i) Sometimes that may look like stop going to regular services because your heart feels like giving up on loving God because of obligation.

ii) Luke 6:46-49 “Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like...”

iii) Luke 12:35-36 “Let...your lamps burning...wait for their master...”

e) John 15:18-27 – John 16:1-4 is Christ’s exhortation to the disciples toward the religion of humanism.