

HUMBLEHEART MINISTRIES*Humbleheart Journal Winter 2002*[back to journal main page](#)**The
Humbleheart
Journal****FIRST QUARTER 2003****Contending For
The Faith**

**UNDER
THE
BRIGHT
WHITE
SNOW**



Opening Highlights

Greetings from Humbleheart Ministries to all of our readers and friends. I apologize for the delay in publishing our quarterly journal and hope you have enjoyed the holiday season.

The last six months of 2002 were very busy for Humbleheart Ministries in the areas of teaching, writing, concerts, preaching and research. We have put forth several new tracts and updated others. Portions are included in this issue of the Humbleheart Journal.

In late October I attended the 24th Annual "*Witnesses Now For Jesus Convention*" near Allentown, PA. It is held at the beautiful Blue Mountain Christian Retreat. It's an event where many counter-cult ministries from around the world can learn and share about some of the latest cult movements and to unveil current teaching materials and tools for ministry. We get to hear several moving testimonies from individuals who were once ensnared by the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and other cult groups but are now born again believers in the real Jesus Christ. I performed a concert there this year and enjoyed times of worship and encouragement. The annual convention is sponsored by "Personal Freedom Outreach," (PFO).

Many new and exciting opportunities are in store for us as 2003 begins. For one thing I have accepted the Senior Pastor position at the Community Church of Cutting, NY, about 20 minutes away from Humbleheart Ministries. As a Missionary and Pastor I hope to not only expand the outreach but to also grow spiritually in Jesus Christ our Lord. I have always believed if we are not continually growing spiritually we are most likely slipping away from God's Word and fellowship. The Pastoral position is part time so I will still be fulfilling all of my obligations as President and Senior Evangelist of Humbleheart Ministries.

“Under The Bright White Snow”

It's been several years since we have seen Lake Erie completely freeze over as it has this winter. Our whitetail deer season began December 2, 2002 with a blizzard. Since then it seems as though we've been in a deep freeze trying to cope with the bitter cold, heavy snow and winds. Last year's deer season was so warm that some days you could wear a t-shirt outdoors. We have experienced unusually cold weather hanging in single digits for long periods of time. Natural gas, electricity and fuel oil prices are soaring higher and so are the monthly heating and utility bills. Not only are we coping with rough travel through the snow but also gasoline prices are rising each week. Here in the Northeastern United States we are praying for a heat wave and get excited when we reach the low 30's.

I am reminded of Psalm 147:15-18 where the Bible says: *“He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes. He casts forth His ice as fragments; who can stand before His cold? He sends forth His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow.”* It makes you realize just how fragile the

human body is when it comes to the elements of nature and why we need the Lord who sustains us.

The visitation pastor of our Church, (William Nicholson) better know as “Pastor Nick” likes to remind us about the brighter side of things. He says, “we are thankful for the bright white snow because what if snow were black?” He makes a good point. Imagine what piles and blankets of black powder would look like. Could you envision cars covered with black powder or driving through blackouts in a snowstorm? It would have an enormous effect scientifically. Darkness and depression would fill the earth. God knows what we need and He made the bright white snow.

As I was writing this issue of the Humbleheart Journal I happened to go outside right after a heavy snow- storm that had lasted two days and two nights. The sun was shining but the air was so cold you could hardly breath without something covering your nose and mouth. Any moisture in the air was crystallized like tiny threads of clear glass and they sparkled as they fell to the ground. It was so quiet I could hear the wings of a red tailed hawk as it flew over the hillside. The trees were cracking with the weight of the snow on their branches. The sun's reflection on the white snow made it almost impossible to see because of the brightness. Once my eyes were adjusted I stopped for a moment to take in the beautiful view of the landscape. Though I enjoyed the view and how snow hides so much, I remembered the reality of what is under the bright white snow. It got me to thinking about how we have the tenancy to accept what is on the surface without checking underneath first.

Snow is a part of life especially to those of us who live in areas of the world where we experience the full effects of the four seasons. We learn to respect and appreciate God's order in creation. *"He gives snow like wool"* which is like a blanket for covering. What does it cover? It covers what spring began, summer maintained, autumn picked clean and let fall to the ground. Just before the winter snow arrives everything looks rather ugly. Dust, mud, dead leaves, grass and tree branches cover the ground. The temperature drops and before you know it, it all disappears under a blanket of bright white snow.

When spring arrives *"He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow"* and we have the task of what we call, "spring cleanup." First we designate an area to build a fire or large disposable containers to be hauled away with the trash. Then we separate the good from the bad with the good being new grass, plants etc, and the bad items dead leaves, branches etc are disposed of. It is a continual process that becomes routine.

We face a challenge in today's world when it comes to discerning whether or not some things are really what they appear to be. Why is it that people can understand things like spring cleanup and make it a routine part of living, but not do the same when it comes to separating the good from the bad, or truth from error for the moral and spiritual things in life?

On the surface we see the Mormon Church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints) and their several "shiny white" marble temples, door-to-door missionaries in white shirts with nametags and white undergarments. They produce warm bubbly commercials on TV to appear as "Christian" as any other Christian Church in America.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are another group commended for their faithful and well-dressed door-to-door missionaries. Their seemingly impressive knowledge of Scripture, well established Watchtower Bible & Tract Society and good deeds have allowed them to appear as one of America's many Christian Churches.

Yet, when examined closely we find that both Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons worship and serve other gods.

Then we have Islam pasted on the cover of magazines, across the TV screens and probably the world's most talked about religion in the news today. The media is still stressing what a peaceful religion Islam is. They say Muslims worship Allah who is really the same God the Christians worship. People continue to believe this is true. However, Allah is the name of an Arabian moon god and Muslims condemn Christianity.

It is obvious that our world has become filled with souls in search of answers to spiritual questions and desperately in need of "TRUTH." It has also become very clear that we have a real mission field right here in our own country because unfortunately the United States in many ways has become a spiritual wasteland. The enemy does not rest!

Like a picturesque snow covered hillside shining brightly under the sun, so is the image the world wants to paint and it's meaning would be that all of us are "one" under the sun. Our differences are hidden or set aside through the eyes of a disobedient world. Those who call evil, good and good, evil, will be judged. Spring will come and all will be revealed. It will be time to clean up and separate the good from the bad and right from wrong that was hidden under the bright white snow. It should be our routine to continually distinguish between the truth found only in God's Word in Jesus Christ from the world and the evil one. If we ignore the bad, the dead leaves, grass and rotted branches the good things will be choked out. Then one dry hot summer day fire will come and the hillside will be reduced to ashes carried away by the wind.

Remember the Words of Jesus when He said, *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (Revelation 3:15-16 NIV)*

We need to follow God's unchanging Word in this ever-changing and unstable world. Don't let the fear of powerful cults like Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses or the false religion of "liberalism" cause you to shrink back. Trust the Lord and resist the feelings of terror when you hear about the evil Muslim Empire. **MARANATHA!**

While Humbleheart Ministries serves in equipping the saints at home and abroad we also stand in direct confrontation with major cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) as well as other false teachers. We praise God for all the opportunities He sets before us to replace error with truth, real love, humility and real peace found only in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The following pages are article versions of a couple of new tracts we have put forth and are proving to be quite useful for separating truth from error.



THE KEY TO CHALLENGING CULTS

It is important to know how to spot false teachers and non-Christian cults when challenged by their teachings.

What are the doctrines that make Biblical Christianity separate from non-Christian cults and other world religions?

Through "sophisticated sin," "New Age" philosophies, Biblical illiteracy and neglect by Christian leadership to "fully" shepherd and protect the sheep, we have become open targets and a field ready for cults to harvest.

Major non-Christian cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses (Watchtower Bible & Tract Society) and the Mormons (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) have found ways to tailor their statements while going door-to-door as well as in the media.

Their goal has always been to appear merely as one of several denominations among the Christian churches, except for the fact that they believe theirs is a more accurate or restored account of true Biblical Christianity, and those outside of their faith are usually called "apostates."

The key to challenging such cults is to speak directly to the essential doctrines that divide us and to not allow them to skirt the issues. They are known for making comments something like, *"There really isn't that much difference between the doctrines we believe."* Mohammad said the same thing to the Christians and Jews as he claimed the Quran was the completion of the Old and New Testament Scriptures. Islam is now a major world religion and "no friend" of Christians and Jews.

If you ask the following questions when confronted you will see what distinguishes Biblical Christianity from cults.

Their answers to these following questions will most likely be "no." Thus you can reply with confidence that they in fact teach another gospel contrary to the Scriptures and Biblical Christianity.

Do you believe in the one true God of "historic Biblical Christianity" – God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – **coequal and coeternal**, (The Holy Trinity)?

Key Scriptures: (Deuteronomy 6:4, James 2:19, Psalm 147:5, John 14:24, Ephesians 2:18, 5:20, Revelation 4:11, Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:3, Psalm 90:2, Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6, 1 Peter 1:2 & 2 Peter 2:17, Romans 10:9, 8:11 & John 2:19, Matthew 28:19.)

Do you believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, second "person" of the Trinity, without human father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, the only Savior of mankind – do you believe He is equal with God in all things; that He died and rose again **"bodily"** from the grave to save us from our sins?

Key Scriptures: (John 1:1-3, 14, Hebrews 1:8, Titus 2:13, Isaiah 9:6, John 10:30, Colossians 1:16-17, Matthew 1:23, 1 John 2:2, Hebrews 9:24.)

Do you believe The Holy Spirit is the third **"person"** of the Godhead (Trinity), and is associated with the work of God in all ages as Creator and Sustainer in all things and that the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of the Christian and guides him in the way of truth?

Key Scriptures: (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:11, Romans 8:16-17, Job 33:4, John 16:8-11, John 16:13-14, Acts 5:3-4, 20:28)

Do you believe Scripture teaches the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ **"in the flesh"** — the purpose of the second coming of Christ is to raise up the Christian dead; to change the natural bodies of living Christians and to receive them all unto Himself that they may be with Him forever?

Key Scriptures: (Acts 1:11,

I Corinthians 15:51-58, I Thessalonians 4:13-16.)

Do you believe heaven is the place prepared by God to be the eternal habitation of the redeemed of all ages where those who have been saved and washed clean by the blood of Christ, will enjoy fellowship with Him — it is a place of joy unspeakable and full of God's glory and there will be a new heaven and a new earth?

Key Scriptures: (John 3:13, 14:2,

2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Revelation 21, 22.)

Do you believe hell is the place of eternal punishment for Satan, his angels, and sinful men — one need not do anything bad to go to hell; just keep on neglecting to be saved, that is all. It is not the will of God that any should perish but that all may turn unto Him and live. Hell is at the end of a Christless life?

Key Scriptures: (Matthew 18:9, 23:33, 25:41, Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 20:14-15.)

Do you believe that Scripture is complete and all Scripture is "God-Breathed" without error and there is a penalty if you add or take away from God's Holy Word?

(For example: the Book of Mormon, The Quran, Watchtower Bible "New World Translation" and their Guidebooks, etc...)

Key Scriptures: (Jeremiah 1:9, John 14:26, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21, Revelation 22:18-19.)

If cult members were to say yes they believe or agree with any of these questions, they are most likely unfamiliar with their own teachings and/or deliberately lying in order to keep the conversation going.

Be firm but patient and slow to anger because they are deceived (misinformed). So hold fast to sound Biblical doctrine without compromise!

You can always spot a cult by whom they say Jesus is, or who He is not. The Holy "Trinity" – the belief that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are coequal and coeternal -- three distinct persons in the unity of

one God as revealed in Scripture, is a doctrine that separates Christianity from all other world religions. It separates the true Christian faith from all false non-Christian cults.

Jesus often confirmed His position as God the Son, the second person of the Trinity.

(John 5:17-18, John 8:58, 10:30, 17:1-6, 20:28)

The Jews understood that nothing could be equal to or even a part of the one true God and not be God! God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4, James 2:19). Christianity accepts Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Son of the living God, as God the Son, Lord and only Savior of mankind.

"Shamblinism"



The story begins with two Christian magazines, Christianity Today (CT), Charisma & Christian Life (CCL) and their online postings during September of 2000.

(CCL) G. Sean Fowlds wrote: Thomas Nelson, the nation's largest publisher of Christian books, has cancelled the release of a book from best-selling diet guru Gwen Shamblin because of questionable statements she made about the doctrine of the Trinity. Shamblin -- founder of the popular Weigh Down Workshop and author of The Weigh Down Diet -- presented her controversial views via a weekly email communiqué to her supporters in August. "As a ministry, we believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. However, the Bible does not use the word 'Trinity,' and our feeling is that the word 'Trinity' implies equality in leadership, or shared Lordship," Shamblin wrote. "If God had wanted us to refer to Himself, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as the 'Trinity,' He would not have left this word completely out of the Bible." In response to Shamblin's comments, Thomas Nelson issued a prepared statement on Sept. 6 announcing the publisher's cancellation of "Out of Egypt," the companion devotional to another Shamblin title, "Rise Above."

It was at that time our ministry began receiving letters, phone calls and emails from hundreds of local Christians as well as our readers across the country.

Excerpt: Christianity Today Online
By Jody Veenker - Posted September 15, 2000

As reports have surfaced this week that at least 35 Weigh Down Workshop employees were coerced to leave their jobs after they refused to attend a church formed by Weigh Down founder Gwen Shamblin, Shamblin has stepped-up defense for her dieting program and theology.

Shamblin sent an email message to Weigh Down Workshop participants on Tuesday, September 12 in an attempt to clarify her stance on the Trinity and to urge others to stand with her.

"In light of the recent attack on my ministry it is time for me to stand up," Shamblin writes. "And it is time for people in Weigh Down to stand up and defend God's truth and his servants against people jumping to the wrong conclusions simply because I have expressed my concerns against some of the confusing teachings of the Trinity."

She goes on to outline her belief that understanding Christ's position in the Trinity is essential to implementation of the lifestyle advocated by Weigh Down. Quoting Philippians 2:5-6, Shamblin writes: "We have been asked to pick up our cross daily and follow THIS Jesus. ... My experience has been that some of the Trinity teachings confuse some people on how we are supposed to live like Jesus if Jesus and God are the same being.

"The reason all of this is important is that if you do not understand that God is the clear authority and that Jesus was under God's authority, then you will not have a clear picture of what it means to be Christ-like. Jesus suffered, obeyed, submitted, denied his will, and made it his food to do the will of the Father."

Later Shamblin writes, "I believe that Jesus and God are two separate beings." She also says she does not believe that Jesus and God are equal in power and glory, but that "the head of Christ is God." She tackled typical Sunday-School illustrations about the Trinity, "This picture of God as one being but transforming himself into three forms, like water, ice, and steam, is confusing at best."

Anita Pillow, a member of Park Avenue Baptist Church and a single mother, told Baptist Press she was fired because she would not attend "Remnant Fellowship," a church formed by Shamblin and her husband in 1999. Nearly two years have passed since Gwen started revealing her misled theological views publicly. Currently on her official web site (www.wdworkshop.com) we read: "While our seminars are currently offered in about 60 Christian denominations - after all, we feel the teaching is simply mere Christianity - we are most directly affiliated with Remnant Fellowship."

\$\$\$... CLARIFICATION! ... \$\$\$

Before we continue lets consider the facts so far. Gwen Shamblin's "Weigh Down Workshop" - a popular weight loss system is a multi million-dollar corporation. "The Weigh

Down Diet" book Gwen authored has sold over one million copies. More than 30,000 workshops meet around the world and thousands of these meetings are held in and/or sponsored by churches. She claims the Weigh Down Workshop is a Christian ministry. It is certainly not a secular establishment because the center of her dietetics teaching is God and her religious views.

SIMPLY PUT, THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE COME FROM THE POCKETS OF THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS!

Obviously her program has been removed from several churches once her false doctrines concerning the Trinity came forth. She has found new avenues to channel her message and finances. According to her current web site she now has at least twenty-seven of her own denominational churches (Remnant Fellowship) established across the United States.

L. Ron Hubbard was a successful science fiction writer in the 1930's and 1940's. In 1949 Hubbard said, "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous, if a man really wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion." The following year, May 1950, he released his book entitled, "**Dianetics**" (**A Modern Science of Mental Health**). It became the religion we know today as "**The Church of Scientology**." They reject the Trinity.

Unitarianism is another religion formed by anti-Trinitarians. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unity, Christian Science, the Unification Church etc, all deny the doctrine of the Trinity. There are many commentators who say that Gwen's teachings resemble Jehovah's Witness or Mormon views. In response she wrote:

"Others are calling me a cult because Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is not the Father. In other words, one small portion of their teachings must parallel one small portion of my teaching...but I assure you that there are no other comparisons. This is a dangerous and faulty logic... The fact is that even my teaching on the Trinity does not parallel Jehovah's Witness or Mormons - so please do not continue to falsely accuse me. This is silly - but unfortunately if this has not been thought through, many people can quickly swallow this faulty reasoning and do much damage to God's servants.

This is slander in the first degree, and Christians must be careful of people who call themselves "cult experts" but have such a shallow understanding. They must be careful of people who are calling themselves apologetics teachers - watchtowers for the sheep -- and yet are trying to put down true servants of God who are turning people from their sin."

We must ask the question: which "god" does Gwen Shamblin serve? Is Gwen's Church, the "Remnant Fellowship," a Christian church or a non-Christian cult?

It is one thing to argue over the differences of nonessential teachings within the Christian Church such as dates and times for serving communion, types of hymns and choruses, implementations of various spiritual gifts among individuals in a congregation etc. It is quite another to abandon an essential doctrine like the Trinity. Knowing the one true God of historic Biblical Christianity is essential for salvation.

Gwen Shamblin and her followers need to understand that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is one doctrine that separates Christianity from all other world religions and non-Christian

cults.

What started out as the Weigh Down Workshop controversy (because of Gwen's public statements) has since developed into at least 27 Remnant Fellowship Churches across the country. They adhere to the same anti-Trinitarian beliefs. Now we must consider Gwen's organization and Church as a Non-Christian cult.

If Gwen gets upset about being compared to other cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses, then perhaps she deserves a name for her own false religion like, "Shamblinism."

One needs only to view the Weigh Down Workshop & Remnant Fellowship web site to understand why it is not necessary to do a line-by-line rebuttal of her comments regarding the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. These past two years she has been challenged by some of the best Christian apologists and Biblical Christian scholars in an attempt to rescue her from her folly. You can find those challenges in articles from several Christian magazines and newsletters. She is not interested in real genuine doctrinal studies. Most of her faithful followers have the same attitudes when questioned. Gwen would probably not be too quick to change her views while seated on the throne at the top of a multi million-dollar corporation and the head of her own church and religion. Turn away from the god of Shamblinism!

THE HOLY TRINITY

There is but one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4, James 2:19). He is infinite, intelligent, Spirit, Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. He is immutable, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, holy, righteous, and just. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

(Psalm 147:5, John 14:24, Ephesians 2:18, Revelation 4:11, Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:3, Psalm 90:2, Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6, Revelation 1:17)

All Three called God:

(1 Peter 1:2, John 1:1,14, Acts 5:3-4)

(Isaiah 9:6, Philippians 2:6, Hebrews 1:8, Titus 2:13)

(John 20:28 & Acts 20:28, Colossians 2:8-9)

WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD?

(ROMANS 10:9)+(JOHN 2:19)+(ROMANS 8:11) = GOD!

(God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)

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