



## BIBLE TALK

by

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Question: Am I being disloyal to my religious upbringing when I question my belief?

Answer: We are repeatedly warned in the scriptures against being deceived. Jesus said, "*Take heed that no man deceive you...*" (Mt. 24:4). Having an improper attitude toward truth can be responsible for one believing a lie. Believing not the truth can "damn" the soul eternally (2 Thess. 2:11-12).

Investigation is commanded! If we believe traditionally, ignorantly, or blindly that which someone tells us without examination of God's word, we are ripe for deception! Jesus instructed the Jews to "*search the scriptures*" (Jn. 5:39). The Bereans searched the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Paul admonished his hearers to "*prove all things*" (I Thess. 5:21). There was a time God overlooked ignorance, when man did not have the complete revelation of God's word, but now commands repentance (Acts 17:30). That can only be avoided by diligent study (2 Tim. 2:15). The word of God is our standard for determination of truth. We are naive if we refuse to face up to the truth about being a part of an organization of men not sanctioned by God.

The Bible teaches that everything is to be done "*according to the pattern,*" the Bible (Heb. 8:5). To offend in one point is to be guilty of all (James 2:10). We must "*speak as the oracles of God*" (I Pet. 4:11), and be ready "*to give an answer to every man*" (I Pet. 3:15). Investigation in the light of God's word is not a terror to those genuinely desiring to follow Christ. When error is pointed out to an honest person, he will count it a personal favor.

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