

Resurrectional Responsibility

Is it a first principle and a test of Fellowship?

All brethren agree that the only true tests of fellowship are the scriptures, and that no man-made document has equivalent standing. The BASF foundational premise which precedes the numbered clauses, properly elevates the Bible as “the only source of knowledge concerning God and His purposes...” thus relegating the clauses that follow as convenient summaries of that knowledge.

THE FOUNDATION—That the book currently known as the Bible, consisting of the Scriptures of Moses, the prophets, and the apostles, is the only source of knowledge concerning God and His purposes at present extant or available in the earth, and that the same were wholly given by inspiration of God in the writers, and are consequently without error in all parts of them, except such as may be due to errors of transcription or translation.

Therefore, whether any doctrinal statement is a first principle and a test of fellowship must be measured against the teaching of the Bible.

On the question of whether *Resurrectional Responsibility* is a first principle and a test of fellowship,

Our answer – Yes.

We believe as we always have, that an appropriate Bible understanding on the topic of resurrectional responsibility is of fundamental importance. We believe that just as the BASF clause 24 adequately summarizes an appropriate understanding of the principle at issue, so do the NASU and the UA08. In our written document entitled *Response by 10 Amended UA08 Signatory Ecclesias* we said:

When we declare that “We have not changed our cherished beliefs as summarized in the Scriptural principles in the BASF”, we include the first principle of Resurrectional Responsibility. We are confident that the mutual historical concerns between the Amended and Unamended regarding Resurrectional Responsibility are adequately covered in NASU and the UA08.

Furthermore all 13 Ecclesias (Amended and Unamended) signatory to the UA08 stand by this statement that is found on page 9 of NASU regarding fellowship:

It is understood and agreed that the doctrines to be believed and taught by us are the first principles of the One Faith as revealed in the Scriptures. The two principal statements of faith, The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith (BASF) and The Birmingham Unamended Statement of Faith (BUSF), as set out herein, (including the Doctrines to Be Rejected and The Commandments of Christ) understood as expressed in (the NASU) represent a true and common definition of the One Faith.

We stand for unity in our local area facilitated by acceptance of the UA08.

We continue to stand for unity and fellowship with our Central Brethren worldwide on the common basis of the BASF.