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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

1-14-1969

From/To: Joe McKissick (Chalk's reply filed first)

Joe McKissick

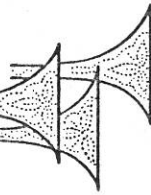
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January 14, 1969

Mr. Joe McKissick
Webb Chapel Church of Christ
13425 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, Texas

Dear Joe:

I don't know of anyone who better understands the problems of relating to a social group different from oneself than you. Your experiences as a missionary have given you valuable insights into cross-cultural relationships.

I found your letter of January 10 very puzzling. I appreciated your openness and frankness. The very fact that you felt free to write revealed a great love on your part for me and, I hope, for the young men whom you refer to as "an untaught minority group" and "dirty-(half) dozen." Your letter raised several questions that I must answer before I can fully and properly relate to you in this matter. I don't know what kind of relationship was "signified" in the things I said in introducing the group. You indicated a relationship was "signified" that was unholy. If you could point out the actual things I said or attitudes demonstrated that made you think this it would help me. I do not remember saying or doing anything that would cause you to accuse me of "lowering yourself to their level." Sue and I have had these young men in our home on a number of occasions for Bible study. In these sessions we have opened our Bible and we have spent an hour and a half to two hours at a time discussing the basic concepts of surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord. I hardly see how this kind of relationship could be branded and condemned as your letter seems to do. I do not understand the paragraph in your letter regarding the parents who become "friends" to their children. I do hope and pray that I am a friend to my son and my daughter. I also believe before God that I discipline them strongly and carefully.

I certainly find it difficult to accept your insinuations regarding what I was saying in our Herald of Truth sermons on the home. If you are not already on our mailing list I want to see to it that you get these sermons and want to urge you to read them rather carefully to see what I will say about the home.

The principle by which I have related to these young men and, I am afraid the principle by which you have reacted to them as you did, is found in Matthew 9:10-13 and Matthew 11:19 as well as many other passages that could be given. I deeply regret that the phrase "Jesus freaks" was used as well as misunderstood.

Mr. Joe McKissick
January 14, 1969
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I find it, however, extremely distressing to know that there is obviously no grace of God, no love of God, and no forgiveness of God to be ministered to these young men at a time when they need the supportive discipline and care of God's people.

I wonder how you would be able to speak for "those hundreds of young Christians who respect you and need what you have" as you did in this letter. I found no evidence in the people with whom I talked, both Monday night and the following Tuesday, to support this kind of conclusion. You must have talked to many of them, or rather had many of them plainly express their opinions to you for you to make this kind of charge. It is tragic that in today's church "one unwise act" would damn me and ruin all my future effectiveness--but God remains my judge, even in spite of "one unwise act."

I did not understand Campus Evangelism Seminar was being held to benefit Dallas churches. I understand that the Dallas-Fort Worth area has the largest concentration of Christians anywhere in the world, according to the masthead on one of your area newspapers. This means that if there were ever a place that would support, understand, encourage and help young people it would be the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Rather than trying to lift the sights and open up the vision of the Dallas churches through a Campus Evangelism Seminar, it seems to me that Dallas churches should have been, as you very definitely were, encouraging this work and being aware of the needs and challenges of young people today.

Joe, do I understand you to believe that these young men should not sing of love, brotherhood, humanity and other great themes that were mentioned in the three songs they sang? Do I understand you to say that a young person, to be a Christian, must have your same personal likes and dislikes, your same personal opinions, and your same personal ideas, culturally and socially?

I hope that this frank exchange will give me a deeper understanding of my responsibility to the young men and women in the group mentioned in your letter. I hope that I can be more open and loving of all kinds of men than I have ever been before. I hope out of this frank exchange you and I can be brothers in an even deeper and more Christ-like way than we have ever been before. Thank you so much for respecting me enough as a brother to write.

Fraternally,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

Webb Chapel Church of Christ

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DALLAS, TEXAS 75234

January 10, 1969

P

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Church of Christ
5th and Highland
Abilene, Texas

Dear John Allen:

Your new radio sermon schedule has just been received and it looks tremendous. I'm building a pretty good library from your tracts!

However, it makes me wonder what you will say about the Home after your introduction of the "dirty -(half) dozen" combo at the Banquet in Market Hall! Do you really "relate" to that combo as much as you signified? You know a man can relate to something without becoming a "full-blood relative". Those young men need to be understood and, in the language of counseling, need to be "accepted" where they are - then, they need to be taught. You cannot teach and lead them upwards by lowering yourself to their level.

Met
11:19
9:10-13

Some parents even get the idea that they must be "buddies" and "friends" to their children and gain the resentment of the same as their reward! Children need understanding and responsible parents, "not bosom buddies".

I was called out on that night to talk with and baptize a prospect brought in by some boys. When I returned, I found these self-designated "Jesus freaks" (??) outside talking instead of listening to that great lecture by Bro. Bill Banowsky. So often do I see such individuals wanting to be (loudly) heard but seldom listening, unless people agree with them.

I am so glad that you will strive to work with such young men, but it is out of place to place such (an untaught minority group) in such a prominent position before such dedicated hundreds.

You hurt your influence with those hundreds of young Christians who respect you and need what you have. You hurt A.C.C., Herald of Truth, and Campus Evangelism in Dallas by that one unwise act.

Dallas can be so frustrating in its acceptance of good works, but this year we had made some good strides with Herald of Truth and Campus Evangelism at last. You, no doubt, had in your mind a good purpose for what you did, but it did not turn out to be a good purpose for Dallas.

Webb Chapel Church of Christ

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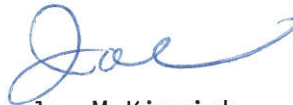
DALLAS, TEXAS 75234

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John Allen, I have said too much and probably in the wrong way, but it is done because I love you and believe in you and because I love the Lord's church with all its great works.

Preach the word and pray for me - and when you come by, pray with me.

Your brother,



Joe McKissick

JM/bfw