

Una Cuestión de Autoridad Moral y Espiritual

Por

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Hablar de autoridad moral, es tener en cuenta la credibilidad que tiene una persona dentro de una sociedad determinada. Nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo, puso de manifiesto la importancia de dicha autoridad, cuando dijo, “¿Quién de vosotros me redarguye de pecado?” (Juan 8:46). Ninguno de los opositores a Jesús pudo demostrar que había alguna falta en su vida. Esta autoridad moral mostraba que Jesús decía la verdad acerca de su persona, es decir, que era el Hijo de Dios, y que con toda confianza podríamos creer en él. Los cristianos, sean predicadores o no, debemos cultivar dicha autoridad. Dios espera que lo hagamos. Pablo lo dijo así, “limpiémonos de toda contaminación de carne y de espíritu, *perfeccionando la santidad* en el temor de Dios” (2 Corintios 7:1). La ética de Dios para el cristiano es sumamente clara. La santidad debe ser perfeccionada en nosotros, y por nosotros.

Pese a estas verdades bíblicas, muchos de mis opositores, no tienen empacho en cuestionar mi fe y mi comunión con Cristo, cuando ellos mismos no gozan de autoridad moral, ni espiritual. En lugar de vivir para trabar en la obra de Dios, muchos se han dedicado a “investigar” mi vida, con el afán de encontrar algo que dé peso a sus ideas con respecto a mi persona. No obstante, en muchos de ellos se cumple la palabra que dice, “Por sus frutos los conoceréis. ¿Acaso se recogen uvas de los espinos, o higos de los abrojos?” (Mateo 7:16). En seguida le voy a mostrar un ejemplo de esto. Se trata de Barney Mejía, quien, sin gozar de autoridad moral y espiritual alguna, no repara en decir que un servidor no es cristiano, y él, como los que piensan como él, sí lo son. Bueno, veamos los frutos, para ver si vemos “higos” o “abrojos”. He aquí una carta en la que

se denuncia y se expone la vida inmoral y carnal de Barney Mejía, predicador nicaragüense, y que ha sido la voz de mis críticos en la controversia con un servidor:

Managua, Nicaragua Enero 31, 2012

Apreciables hermanos en Cristo, reciban fraternales saludos de parte de la iglesia de Cristo en el Barrio campo Bruce, Managua.

A través de la presente carta queremos pronunciamos hacia ustedes habiendo hecho una rectificación de la carta escrita y dirigida a ustedes con fecha (Mayo 21/2011) en la que tratamos el caso de nuestro hermano Barney Mejía Quintero (quien fue evangelista en esta congregación).

Debido a las indagaciones hechas acerca de nuestro hermano BMQ desde la fecha en que fue emitida la carta hasta hoy Hemos comprobado y confirmado que los pecados de: **FORNICACION, BORRACHERA, INFIDELIDAD, MENTIRA** señalados en dicha carta hacia nuestro hermano en cuestión son verdaderos.

FORNICACION: Lo que en ese entonces se conocía como un descuido espiritual de nuestro hermano cayendo en este pecado con una joven del mundo, se ha podido comprobar que nuestro hermano no había dejado el nexo con la joven tanto así que desde hace varios meses hasta hoy ellos continúan conviviendo como pareja, habiendo el hermano dejado a su esposa verdadera y a su hijito en el abandono. Mal 2.14

BORRACHERA: También hemos confirmado por indagaciones a través de personas que conocen a nuestro hermano, que los señalamientos acerca de borrachera practicado por el mismo hermano, son ciertos, tanto así que hasta hoy los sigue practicando siendo esto, la mas confiable confirmación de su propio pecado. Rom 13.13,14

ROBO: Al lector de la presente carta dejamos que juzgue si esto es pecado de robo o no.

a- Durante el tiempo que estuvo como tesorero de la iglesia, el hermano Barney M.Q. no presento reporte de la ofrenda, (siendo los últimos años en los que sirvió en esta área 2008,2009,2010). Debido a constantes peticiones de los varones para que entregara la ofrenda, decidió el hermano en cuestión entregarla con un faltante de \$ 1200 dólares americanos, **INJUSTIFICADO**. Faltante que se comprometió a pagar a la iglesia local. Por qué entonces se comprometió el hermano a pagar el faltante?

MENTIRA Y REBELDIA: El hermano Barney MQ ha mostrado mucha inconsistencia espiritual, en varias ocasiones ha estado en las reuniones manifestando estar arrepentido y reconciliando con Dios, lo cual dura muy poco, siendo la ultima vez en la fecha 09 de noviembre del 2011, últimamente hemos conocido que nuestro hermano ha manifestado planear volver con su esposa Sandra Mejía, pero no a la fidelidad con Dios. Tit 3.3; Efes 4.22-26

Hemos conocido que nuestro hermano Barney se ha dirigido a ustedes enviando sermones y notificaciones acerca de su estado espiritual, como si estuviera fiel y en comunión con Dios, lo cual es mentira, no es miembro fiel de esta congregación y mucho menos evangelista hundiéndose mas y mas en los pecados de mentira, infidelidad, desobediencia, rebeldía. Rom 2.21-24.

Por eso hermanos primeramente queríamos indagar bien el caso de nuestro hermano Barney Mejía Quintero, por tal razón hasta hoy lo hacemos publico. Lc 12.2

Delante de Dios queremos darles a conocer que hemos tratado de restaurar a nuestro hermano, pero su falta de voluntad no le ha permitido volver a la comunión con Dios.

Nota: Esta carta es enviada a ustedes sin sello, debido a que nuestro sello, estaba en manos del hermano Barney Mejía.

Sin mas que agregar les pedimos sus oraciones en favor de nuestro hermano, para que sea restaurado.

Saludos y Bendiciones a todos ustedes en Cristo Jesús nuestro Salvador.

Cuando los hermanos e iglesias se enteraron de la carnalidad de Barney Mejía, le retiraron su apoyo, ni sin antes informarle del gran daño y tristeza que estaba causando a ellos, y a la obra en Nicaragua. Kenneth L. Parrish, le escribió para hacerle ver su hipocresía, y cómo había dañado su relación con ellos (Ver carta, pág. 188), invitándole amorosamente al arrepentimiento, y sobre las consecuencias de su pecado. La respuesta de Barney, sin embargo, fue sumamente negativa, y como es su costumbre, sumamente carnal (Ver carta, pág. 191). Desde luego, dicha actitud y carnalidad, lo único que hizo fue agravar su situación (Ver carta, pág. 193). ¿Qué le parece?

La autoridad moral y espiritual de mis críticos es sumamente cuestionable. Otros muchos dicen que las iglesias tienen la libertad de recibirme o no; sin embargo, ellos no confiesan que han influido a varias congregaciones a que ni me escuchen. Cuando fui invitado al D.F., para hablar con una congregación en dicha ciudad, el hermano que me invitó terminó excomulgado por haberlo hecho. Se presentaron, ese día, algunos jóvenes y algunos adultos, entre los cuales estaba José Fariñas, y uno de los varones de la iglesia, por teléfono, dijo que no tenía nada que hablar con un servidor. Finalmente, Moisés Algara, a quien tuve oportunidad de conocer en San Luis Potosí, se encargó de sembrar más prejuicios en ellos, para que no me recibieran. No obstante, y cuando hablé con él en persona, me dijo que todo estaba bien. ¿Le parece moral y espiritualmente correcto todo esto? Lo mismo sucedió en Matamoros, donde tuve la oportunidad de participar en una cena con varios predicadores, entre los cuales estaban varios que decían que un servidor no era cristiano. No obstante, ninguno pudo probar sus aseveraciones, y algunos ni palabra pronunciaron. No obstante, y estando un servidor fuera de dicha ciudad, algunos de ellos tienen mucho qué decir en mi contra, con tal que no esté presente, ¿es moral y espiritualmente correcto este proceder?

Exhorto a la hermandad a que no se deje arrastrar por acciones tan alejadas de la ética que debe caracterizar a todo hijo de Dios, sea predicador o no.

APÉDICE DEL CAPÍTULO 23

Carta 01

Dear Barney:

First I want to say to you, that in the 9 years I have known you, I have come to have a great love for you, your wife Sandra and your son Chris. I remember Linda holding Chris when he was just a baby. She too loves the three of you very much. We both looked to you as one the stronger men in the faith in Nicaragua. One willing to stand up and fight for the truth and keep error out of the church. We loved you much then, and we love you today.

But, it was a very sad day when we learned of your unfaithfulness. So, I would like to try to explain to you some of the things we need to address. I pray that the language will not be a problem. So bear with me and if there is something I say that you do not fully understand because of how it may translate, let's talk about it before either of us come up with an opinion about what is said and be wrong.

#1 Your sin was several months ago and you did not let those who were supporting you know of it.

This is one of the first problems various elders, individuals and myself are having a problem with. Barney, during the time you had sinned, you were still sending out reports of your works as if nothing was wrong. You had been working on your website and asking others to go to it for teaching. It was not until Bro Pedro Martinez had to explain to the El Reparto Schick church his reason for leaving Campo Bruce church that I became aware of your sins. Why did you not feel you should report this back in December to those who support you? You did not write me until you were told to do by some of the other preachers, and I do not need to name who they were. The church at Studebaker Road did not know of this until Bro Mark Reeves got my email.

#2 The Bro Pedro Martinez.

Bro. Pedro, who is your brother-in-law, married to your sister...they left and moved their membership to EL Reparto Schick. I am sure both of these people who would know you even better than the members, had strong reasons for leaving. Bro. Pedro tells me he loves and he can forgive you, and he has,

but that he feels he cannot work with you as the preacher. I know your sister must be hurt too and I am sure she too has forgiven you for we are told we must do so in the Good Book. But Barney you and Sandra are now saying many evil things about Pedro and he is saying "hate and bitterness toward Barney, to make him lose his support" and this is not true. Pedro is not the cause of you losing one nickel of support...you and your sin, and the reason you keep it a secret from those who supported you is the reason you will/may/are...losing support. If you had reported this when it first happened, I would have been praying and studying with you to help you and Sandra through all of the hurt that I am sure he went through when learning of your sin.

Many of the preachers in NICA know of your sin and they all told me how hurt and sad they were to learn about what happened. They love you and they are praying for you, but they also told me that they feel that all the men and the churches have been hurt due to your sins, and that those who support you men will now be watching even closer at you and your works. Many men, like Bro Wayne Partain, who you know well, have called me and they too feel that you have hurt the church in NICA. In Bro. Wayne own words..."*Forgive, yes, but forgiveness does not obligate a church to continue providing salary for such a preacher. He (Barney) definitely needs to bring forth fruit of repentance for a long time (and I don't mean months). Also he (Barney) owes Sandra a bigger debt than he can ever pay. He should go all out to prove his undying devotion to her as long as they live. As for Barney, I would strongly recommend that he find secular employment because his conduct has brought great reproach upon the Lord, the church and the gospel he preaches."*

#3 Support from the USA and NICA.

Barney, you know ever since I have been coming to NICA that I have been looking for support for you men. The only thing I asked was that everyone was to be true with me about the total support they received from the US. The reason for this was that the men who supported you want this info so they could be good stewards of the Lord's money. They need financial reports, not only from the men in NICA, but they request the same from men supported here in the States. I have now learned that you did not report all the support that you receive. There are some individuals that send you support that was not reported. Why did you keep this from me? You only reported to me \$300 from Glen Springs church, \$100 from Studebaker Road church, \$100 from the

Folsom church in CA, and \$100 from our Bro Dick Wheeler here in Gainesville, FL for a total of \$600 per month. Barney, again I will ask you...it this is the total income you reported to me? Remember, I keep all reports from NICA.

#4 The reported charges against you.

1. Stole \$1,400 from the church treasure.
2. Living in adultery with a young girl probably for one year...spent the money from the church treasure supplying his lover.
3. Forsake the assembly for a month.
4. Drinking.

These are charges reported by your brother-in-law. He states in a business meeting of the men, that they met to deal with your situation. Then you stand before the congregation and repent of not worshipping for a month, but you did not recognize the other charges of sin. The men of the business meeting then authorized Pedro to write a letter to the brethren that support you, but since he did not know the English, he wrote Bro Tol Burk for help in writing the letter. Bro. Tol then called me. Bro. Pedro's testimony then became known at the El Reparto Schick church because Pedro, his wife, Celina Mejia and their daughter Solais moved their membership to that local church and explain to them his reason for leaving the church at Campo Bruce. It was not until May 17 that you write to me stating that *"It was in the month of last December that I met a person, with which I fell in 'fornication', let us be absent of the meeting of the church some days, while persevered in my sin..."* You then say the brethren came to you several times to exhort you...that you were then sorry before your God...you asked God for forgiveness of your sin...you asked forgiveness of the young lady you sinned with...you asked your wife Sandra to forgive you and then on the first Sunday of January this year, you asked the church at Campo Bruce to forgive you. The men of Campo Bruce then have a meeting and ask that you stay on as the preacher, but Pedro felt that you should not be preaching, so he and his wife and daughter move their membership to El Reparto Schick.

Barney, what about the other charges. Not once have you addressed these...the money from the treasury...drinking. I also see you are becoming very bitter and a poor attitude against some of the other men. You say they are

"gossiping" about you and only doing it so you will lose your support. I can also see that Sandra too is starting to have a "bad attitude". Brother you are adding to you your sins. Every brother that has said anything to me said it in love for your soul. They each told me that that they can and have forgiven you. Barney, just how did you think that the other men and myself would not know of your sin, sooner or later. I know you think that Domingo want to see you lose your support because these men ask him to write to me in the English. Barney, he love you, but he also know how bitter you are toward him. He would do anything for you and you know it.

Barney, let me say this in all love for you. If I was a member at Campo Bruce at this time and the men agreed to let you stay on as the preacher, I too would have move my membership. Yes, I would had, just as I have now, forgiven you, but how could I listen to a lesson from you on the home, loving you wife, the Works of the flesh, etc.... Barney, I feel very strongly that there is a need to bring forth fruits of repentance for a period of time, and I don't mean two or three weeks, or months, or many even years. If the brethren at Campo Bruce want to support you, then that is there choice. But I must now tell you that the church in Gainesville, Florida, Glen Springs church of Christ has stopped the support. Brother Dick Wheeler called me today and we had a long talk and he too is very hurt, but he too said that he can not support you. The Elders, Brother Wheeler, and myself are praying for a time that Barney will once again be the strong voice for the sound doctrine in Nicaragua. And when that happens, we will again be willing to support him someday

Your friend and brother in Christ,

Kenneth L Parrish Sr.

Carta 02

Hermano Parrish,

Dios le bendiga siempre en su vida y en su hogar. Gracias por el aprecio que nos dice tener, nosotros también tenemos buenos recuerdos de ustedes, y los mantendremos siempre... Los hombres fuertes de Dios en la historia de la Biblia, no eran perfectos, y su fuerza jamás se mide por su pecado, sino por la firme voluntad de seguir a pesar de haber pecado (Abraham, el padre de la fe **Gén.12: 10 – 20**; David cuando peco con Betsabe **2Sam.11; 12: 13**, pero aún así Dios dice que el corazón de David es como su corazón **Hech.13: 22**; Pedro negó conocer al Señor **Mat.26: 69 – 75**, sin embargo él abrió las puertas del

reino en el Pentecostés **Hech.2: 14 – 42**, y aún después volver a pecar con Hipocresía **Gál.2: 11 - 14**) Si hermano Parrish, todos estos grandes hombres pecaron, pero su fuerza se ve en que siguieron adelante. Usted me dice, que me puede perdonar, pero que no puede escucharme hablar del hogar, del amor a la esposa, etc., pero entonces cómo puede escuchar al apóstol Pedro, quién después de ser hipócrita predica sobre el pecado de la hipocresía en (**1Ped, 2: 1**) como pudo escuchar a su hermano Domingo en una ocasión que tradujo en Fátima, León cuando después de su restauración de borracheras, les tradujo sobre el pecado de borrachera... No entiendo, porque se pretende ser súper estricto en mi caso, no veo justicia en todo esto. También, usted se equivoca en su juicio hacia mí, al darle veracidad a las palabras de un hermano que fue extremadamente carnal entre nosotros en Campo Bruce... Porque rehuyó usted a la plática con los hombres, esa fue su oportunidad de oír a los hermanos, y ver la reacción carnal de los que me acusan (Pedro y su esposa) Tengo la impresión que usted fue estorbado para no tener esa reunión con nosotros, después que usted me había dado su palabra para esa reunión (creí en su palabra, porque un hombre no vuelve a tras de la palabra que ha dado) Usted prefirió escuchar rumores y no venir a la fuente principal (Los hombres de la iglesia local) Que usted le de validez a la palabra del hermano Pedro Martínez, solo confirma la amenaza de un Domingo Cuadra, quién me dijo aquel sábado “QUE LA MAYORÍA NO SIEMPRE TIENE LA RAZÓN”, menospreciando a los hombres de Campo Bruce, y conociendo la malicia de Harvin Fernández y Domingo Cuadra, me atrevo a pensar que ellos dos le persuadieron a usted para creerle a Pedro Martínez en lugar de los hombres de Campo Bruce (usted necesita otros 9 años para conocer la malicia que hay entre quienes usted anda) Siga menospreciando a los hombres de Campo Bruce, ya no importa, usted ya ha juzgado aunque de manera parcial y se ha atrevido a comentar de mí tomando como base lo que otros (no los hombres de donde soy miembro), dicen de mí... No hermano Parrish, no hay justicia en su juicio, porque no ha sido la misma actitud cuando otros han pecado. Soy culpable de haber cometido “fornicación”, pero de los otros cargos SOY INOCENTE.... Lo único que me consuela es que mi salvación no depende de nadie aquí en la tierra, sino de un Dios misericordioso y perdonador. Solamente me queda, agradecerles por el tiempo que trabajaron conmigo, y no se preocupe por nosotros, seguiremos adelante... Estás serán mis únicas y las últimas palabras que usted reciba de mí... No me mal entienda, no estoy dolido porque me hayan quitado el soporte, estoy dolido por su falta de justicia y de madurez espiritual en este asunto, de absolver al culpable, y condenar al inocente... Al que ha defendido ahora (Pedro), ha negado una y otra vez haber escrito alguna carta acusándome, pero aún así usted le da validez a sus palabras (de Pedro)...

Los carnales con los que usted anda, han tratado de cerrarme puerta en algunas iglesias que me invitan a predicar, pero estas carnalidades a usted no se las hacen saber, o quizás usted también las crea justas (He visto mejores actitudes en otros hermanos con los que no tenemos comunión) Adiós hermano Parrish, que Dios le guarde en su vida y en su hogar. Un servidor:

Barney Isaac Mejía Quintero

P. O. Box. 992

Managua, Nicaragua

Centro, América

Carta 03

Bro Barney:

Again, I am not surprise by your attitude, which we have talked about before. I need to address some of the things you say in in your letter below. First thing is, I hope what every program you are using to translate will do so in the correct words I am trying to say to you. Just like I am hoping some of the things you have said to me below lost some of it meaning because of the translation. So, let us take some of the things you said or did not say, one-at-a-time

1. You said "*Be cause you avoided to the chat with the men, that it was your opportunity to hear the brethren, and to see the carnal reaction of those that accuse me (Pedro and his wife).*

REASON: Did I not call you and tell why. I was in Granada, I was getting back to the Hotel late (and leaving early the next morning to return to the US), I was tired, not feeling well, and did not feel like I could handle a 3 to 4 hours listening to you talking about Pedro and his wife, who would not be present. I would only have your side of the problem. Barney, the problem is not Pedro and his wife. The problem is Barney and maybe some of the men at Campo Bruce. You say you have repented...the men at Campo Bruce want to let you stay on an preach. Well they have that right. Pedro and his wife does not want to stay and **they have the right to leave**. They are asked "why they leave"...they have the right to tell that the preacher, Barney, has admitted that he committed "adultery" and they feel they cannot sit at his feet and listen to him preach. You, **have admitted the "adultery"** and it is

now public knowledge to everyone. As I said before, I would not be able to stay and listen to you either. Your attitude is wrong, because **you are now being the judge** of the heart of Pedro and his wife (*"see the carnal reaction of those that accuse me (Pedro and his wife)*).

2. You said *"I have the impression that you were hindered for not having that meeting with us, after you had given me their word for that meeting (I believed in your word, because a man doesn't return to after the word that has given) you preferred to listen rumors and not to come to the main source (the men of the local church)*.

REASON: Again... see my statement above. Yes, I said I would try to meet with you Monday, if we got back in town in time. But I also wanted to have Alex and Pedro and who ever else there with us and not just your side of the problem. But again Barney, look at your attitude. You are again setting yourself up as the "Judge"..."*You preferred to listen rumors and not to come to the main source (the men of the local church)*.... What rumors Barney? You admitted to adultery....is that not true or is just a "tumor"? Do you think that no one knows of your sin and that they have no right to speak of it. You tried very hard to hide it, and Barney, that is the "real sin here".

3. You said *"knowing the malice of Harvin Fernandez and Domingo Curdra, I dare to think that them two persuaded you to believe to Pedro Martinez instead of the men of Campo Bruce (you need other 9 years to know the malice that there is among who you walk)*.

REASON: Again Barney....look within your own heart of the "Malice" you have for Harvin, Domingo, and Pedro. You need to read the Book of 1 John 3 again about loving one another. I can tell you in all truth, that every man that knew of you problem had nothing but love in their hearts for you and that the were praying for you and "YES" ,,they had forgiven you. I spent a lot of time with both Harvin and Domingo on this trip and neither of they spoke of you except when I asked a question of my own....this is also true of all the men in NICA.

Are you saying I can not tell when you someone may be using me when you say *"you need other 9 years to know the malice that is among who you walk)*? You hide your sins for several months. You were caught...you asked forgiveness....**I am sure God has forgiven if we follow Acts 8:22; Rev 2:5; Rev 16:21; 2 Pet 2:20-22; 1 Cor**

5:5....does that mean that I have to sit at your feet and listen to you preach.....NO!

Barney...I am asking that you answer these questions....YES or NO!

1. Did you take money from the church treasury? Yes or No!!
2. If you say you did not take money from the treasury, why have you said you would pay money back?
3. Did you report to me your "TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME" correct at \$600 (\$300 from Gainesville, \$100 from Studebaker Road, \$100 Folsom, \$100 Bro Wheeler)
4. Were you involved with drinking alcohol?

Barney, I love you and Sandra very much. I would do anything for you. If you needed food, I would be there to help feed you,, but Barney, I would not at this time help support you to preach the gospel. Would I in time, maybe! I would like to hope that I could.

Barney, I am asking that you stop your attacks on me, Pedro, Harvin, Domingo, and other preachers or men in NICA. Get your heart right and start living right and take care of your wife.....you have given her a lot of hurt and you need to win that trust again.

You are in my prayers daily,,,I still love you....and I count you as a friend.

In His Service, Ken Parrish