

If a sound Sunday School is in operation and if sound and well rounded sermons are being ~~preach~~ preached, I personally envision the Sunday evening youth group to be a time of youth participation, activity (panels, discussions, etc.), fellowship, and a time of Christian education and strengthening in character. I do not think that youth groups flourish when they are "message orientated." The program book at hand can be ~~work~~ used effectively as setting the topic and motif for a quarter's meetings. *All such books are to be used as guides by the Youth Director who may add, omit, or alter at will.*

Needless to say that it is unfortunate to the highest degree that the charges against this book had to come out suddenly at a public meeting. This is neither the way of Christian charity (1 Cor. 13:1-2) nor the way of Matthew 18:15-17. If a man has mastered all the theological mysteries, but yet is without charity, 1 Cor. 13:1-2 tells us that he is just a noise maker in God's sight. ~~Therefore all of us as Christians cannot afford to be merely correct over this or that point when it is not a matter of apostasy or purposeful proclamation of heresy; but we must try to correct error in a way pleasing to the Lord.~~

Recently I have witnessed several instances wherein our own brethren have "attacked" other of our own brethren over non-heretical matters or matters that should have at least been preceded by a charitable appeal before a hot blast was sent. We cannot permit error to float around loosely; but neither can we thrive in an atmosphere of theological inquisition or gestapoism. Now I am not accusing the one who made the charges against this book of such; but I am neting a cloud in the sky which I hope will blow away.

I recently proof-read some Sunday School material for one of Rev. Mood's writers and I pointed out several errors of fact and theology. Yet perhaps I will have to re-read the material fifty more times lest in some of these little sentences directed at children there should be found a hint of pelagianism, semi-pelagianism, supralapsarianism, socinianism, monothelitism, eutichianism, ~~patristic~~ ~~arianism~~, arminianism, hyper-calvinism, hyper-dispensationalism, monarchianism, dynamic-monarchianism, existentialism, ~~etc.~~ modalism, ~~etc.~~ dualism, etc. The point is obvious. I do not think anyone's material--except it be the Bible or the Confessions--can withstand such hyper-examination. The book at hand did contain some errors; let them be corrected. It--AS ALL SUCH BOOKS--contains many sentences, ~~and~~ paragraphs, *and pages* different from that which I or you would have written; but people differ. We must disagree with our own people ~~cordially~~ cordially when they are not heretics--and an error in a lesson book does not make one a heretic. A heretic is one who clings to a false doctrine of significance or one who clings to a denial of an essential doctrine.

It is a shame that the author of this book who dedicated her work to the Lord ~~and for the Lord~~ had to be public ~~ly~~ embarrassed. If this happens too many more times there will be no one willing to write. Those who do not like the book need not use it. Those who can use it to the glory of the Lord, let them use it.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

*Gary G. Cohen*  
Dr. Gary G. Cohen