

## **Info concerning the division over the individual bread breaking question.**

First, some background as related to me by J S Bedingfield.

This practice (individual breaking) had never been practiced prior to 1928 but had been proposed through the paper *THE TRUTH*, published by E H Harper of Sneads, Florida. (I believe the initials are correct, but possibly wrong on one) It had been taken up by some few about 1928 through the paper. It was an attempt to combat an argument by the cups preachers in debate on that subject, which was raging at that time.

In 1928 Harper and J N Cowan (a prominent cups preacher) held a debate on the question of the cup. This was conducted in Graham, Texas. In attendance were Homer King, Homer Gay, J D (Doug) Phillips, J S Bedingfield, along with Dorothy Sage, age 16 (a school teacher in New Mexico at the time), Lurana McCluskey, and others. They were all staying at Bro Franklin's house at Seymour, TX.

It was because of the notoriety of this proposal that Cowan made the following statement: "The Bible tells us *in like manner Jesus also took the cup*...If we can divide (break) the loaf, we can also divide the cup" Then he said, "The next thing we know, you boys will be advocating that we shouldn't break the loaf."

Harper took the bait and replied, "I will affirm that it is unscriptural to divide the loaf". This precipitated a night-long argument with Bro Bedingfield on one side, and the others against him. This was the beginning of the *public* rupture in the churches over this subject.

Following the debate, Homer King returned to Lebanon, Missouri and began to propose this digression in the churches there and also (to my knowledge) in New Mexico where he was known. Phillips went West and worked privately among members of many congregations introducing this practice. He subverted the congregations at El Centro, Montebello, East Los Angeles, (Siskiyou St) and others. (This was the congregation where the Nichols family attended; Paul, Ray, Nelson, along with their parents) Bro Jim Taylor (Bill's grandfather), along with the Elmer Hunts rejected this and began meeting in North Long Beach, and finally Bellflower.)

An interesting note: Many years later, my step-mother's brother in law, Ed Atchley attended the congregation at Austin, Texas, where Phillips was preaching at the time of his death a few years later. Visiting in Modesto where we lived at the time, he stated to my father that Phillips no longer contended for this practice exclusively; he would accept either practice. I wonder how he felt about the troubles he helped introduce into the churches.

This much I am certain of from my personal acquaintance with J S Bedingfield, J D Stark, Dorothy Sage, and others. At the time of the recording (on C D) with Dorothy Sage, she was the last remaining attendee at the debate where this all started.

J D Logan