

York, Pa.  
April 30, 1928.

To the Saints Gathered to the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Beloved Brethren:

For many months we here in York have been pressed about action in matters of Christian discipline concerning those of our brethren who gather to our Lord's precious name at 5917 Chestnut Street, West Philadelphia. Having had much literature given to us, and many at this time through the influence of the above and by good words and fair speeches which we believe for the time deceived many.

But through all this, there were many of our brethren before the Throne of Grace in prayer for guidance in this sad affair and we sought only His mind and not to be influenced by the minds of men.

Finally, five of our brethren came to the conclusion that they would not pass judgment upon our brethren in West Philadelphia without first hearing them. On February 12, 1928, they in company with a brother from Lancaster, Pa., went to the above assembly to interview our brethren there. In the afternoon of the above date, they had a conference with the assembly there, which lasted three hours. The doctrinal question was thoroughly gone into and they were fully convinced that they do not hold any of the erroneous teaching as set forth in the tractate, "The Incarnation of the Son," by Mr. James Boyd. "As to the doctrine itself," they say, "we hold it more precious to us than aught else that our Blessed Lord was both truly God and truly Man in one Blessed Person." (See their letter to Hunter and Allison Streets Assembly of July 26, 1927).

As to the moral question, our five brethren brought back a favorable report, and many things are now revealed to us that before we could not understand and we wish to state further that we here in York extend our hand of brotherly fellowship to West Philadelphia.

After our brethren returned they were severely criticized for going to West Philadelphia. A meeting was called to reach an understanding as to our relation to them in Christian fellowship, at which time it was decided to write them a letter, inquiring as to their attitude toward Mr. Boyd and the doctrine set forth in his tractate, "The Incarnation of the Son." Their answer has been published under date of March 31, 1928.

Upon receipt of this letter another meeting was held April 16, 1928, at which time Bro. J. B. Gottshall branded Mr. James Boyd as an anti-Christ, and stated definitely that he has cut off West Philadelphia and all those that fellowship with them.

Before this, Bro. J. B. G. had made the statement that he would not rent his hall, (which we occupied at this time), to those who would not cut off West Philadelphia or any who would not admit that Second John is applicable to Mr. Boyd.

When pressed as to his attitude to the brethren of the local assembly in York who would not cut off West Philadelphia, Bro. J. B. G. stated that he withdrew from them, that is, from the signers of this letter and those with them.

This ultimatum has resulted in our holding of the regular meetings in our homes. We are soon to rent a hall for meetings, and cordially invite laboring brethren to come to York for the gospel and ministry of the Word. Those wishing to come, please address Bro. Roy C. Bennett, 148 N. Newberry St., or Bro. Wm. H. Shanabrough, 327 Calisle Ave., York, Pa.

Our position, dear brethren, is briefly this: We are continuing as ever in fellowship with our brethren with whom we have been for many years. We have not cut off any nor do we desire to do so.

Our belief is, that the assembly in West Philadelphia has dealt righteously and scripturally with C. J. Grant and have proved themselves sound as to the person of Christ.

Our hearts are open to all our brethren and we trust that others in York may see the wrong of judging Godly brethren, and may again be with us in the remembrance of our Lord.

Yours affectionately in our Lord,

Signed, CLARENCE E. CRIST,  
WM. H. SHANABROUGH,  
M. C. VAN TASSEL,  
ROY C. BENNETT,  
HAROLD ENFIELD,  
P. A. RICKRODE,  
MILTON RAWHAUSER.

The Assembly in Lancaster is in full fellowship with our brethren in York in this matter: Signed in behalf of the Assembly in Lancaster.

Signed, SAMUEL S. SHEAFFER,  
CHARLES E. HOCKING,  
JOHN H. MCGINNIS.