

Maintaining the Purity of the Bride of Christ - you and me

Romans 16:17-20

Introduction:

Ephesians 5:27 *He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.*

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.*

1 Cor. 5:11 *I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.*

Matt. 18:15 *And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*

Titus 3:10 *Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,*

Titus 1:10 *For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain.*

2 Thess. 3:6 *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life*

Rev. 19:7 *Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.*

Why does Paul address this issue?

1st - Because attack is _____

2nd - Because confrontation is _____ for us

#1 - A false view of _____

#2 - A false view of _____

1 Cor. 5:12 *Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 ...Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*

#3 - A false view of _____

#4 - A false view of _____

Galatians 6:7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

3rd - Because Jesus _____ it

#1. Recognize the _____

1st - The _____ of the problem 17

17 *Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.*

1-who cause dissensions 17a

Galatians 5:19 *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,... 21 ...those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

2-those who cause hindrances 17b

Romans 14:13 *determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.*

3-contrary to the teaching which you learned 17c

Galatians 1:8 *But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

1 Tim. 1:10 *and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*

2nd - The _____ of the problem makers 18

18a *For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites;*

3rd - The _____ of the problem makers 18

18b *and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.*

1 Thess. 2:5 *For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness--*

1 John 3:7 *Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;*

#2. Follow the _____ steps

1st - toward the rebellious _____ 17

Step 1 - See purity as _____ for the community of Christians 17a

17 *Now I urge you, brethren,*

Romans 12:1 *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

1 Cor. 1:10 *Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Step 2 - _____ for divisive people

17 *keep your eye on those*

Step 3 - Go through the loving _____ God commands

17 *and turn away from them.*

1 Pet. 3:11 *And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it*

Matthew 18:15 *And if your brother sins,*

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass,*

Stage 1 - Matthew 18:15 *And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*

Stage 2 - Matthew 18:16 *But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.*

Stage 3 - Matthew 18:17 *And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church;*

Stage 4 - Matthew 18:17 *and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.*

Titus 3:10-11 *Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning,*

Step 4 - Trust _____ to deal with them in His way 20

20 *And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

Revelation 20:10 *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, ... [to] be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Matthew 4:10 *Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.*

2nd - Challenge the _____ to...

Step 1 - Continue in _____ to the Bible 19

19 *For the report of your obedience has reached to all;*

Romans 1:5 *through whom we have received grace ... to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles.*

Romans 16:26 *the gospel... has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;*

Romans 6:17 *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart ...*

Step 2 - _____ each other 19

19 *therefore I am rejoicing over you,*

3 **John 4** *I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in truth*

Step 3 - Recognize, affirm & practice what is _____ 19

19 *but I want you to be wise in what is good,*

• Galatians 5

Step 4 - Stay _____ from evil 19

19 *and innocent in what is evil.*

Matthew 10:16 *Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves.*

Phil. 2:14 *Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God*

Conclusion: Today is a true test of whether...

1 - you trust and obey the _____ and are willing to _____ to Jesus in everything

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted?*

2 - you truly _____ your brothers & sisters in Christ

1 **Corinthians 13:6** *love 'does not rejoice in unrighteousness'*

3 - you know what kind of attitude you are to have toward sin in a _____ and in a _____

1 **Corinthians 5:9** *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.*

4 - you personally _____ Jesus Christ or not