

Sin in Church - The Covering of Love

December 6, 2018

The Standard

- *The standard of holiness for the Church has never, and will never, change.*
- *Born-again people long to be holy people; it's our spiritual DNA. We want to be like Him. We want to please Him.*

Ephesians 5:25-27 ESV

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

2 Corinthians 6:16-17 ESV

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

Practice vs Weakness

- *The "practice of sin" is recurring and deliberate, the exercise of pride and self-will.*
- *The "sin of weakness" is being temporarily overcome in a moment of weakness in our flesh, yet the expression of that sin is neither who we are, nor what we desire.*

1 John 3:9-10 ESV

9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.
10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Matthew 26:41 ESV

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Romans 7:15-17 ESV

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.
17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

2 Sins God Always Judges

- *Hidden and Secret*
- *Willful and Recurring*

Acts 5:1-5 ESV

- 1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,
- 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.
- 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?
- 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."
- 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

1 John 1:5-7 ESV

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

- Without honesty, there is no basis for trust and without trust, there is no capacity for relationship.
- Honesty does not require full disclosure to the church assembly, but it does require a heart attitude that is free from guile and pretence.
- There is a healthy balance between autonomy and community.

Acts 5:4 ESV

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

Matthew 18:15-19 ESV

- 15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.
- 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

- 1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.
- 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.
- 3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.
- 4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our

Lord Jesus,

5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--

10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

Church - The Safest Place for You to Expose Your Sin

For the Christian, the battle against the sin in our flesh is the closest, fiercest and most lethal battle for our soul.

Circumstantial trials will come and go, but mortifying the flesh never ends, not even to subside for a season. The battle against the flesh will rage on until rapture or death.

James 5:14-16 ESV

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Peter 4:8-9 ESV

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers (*kalyptō* - cover, hide, to hinder the knowledge of, to veil) a multitude of sins.

9 Show hospitality (*philoxenos* - given to, lover of hospitality, generous to guests) to one another without grumbling.

Luke 22:31-34 ESV

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

32 **but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.** And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

Luke 22:60-62 ESV

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

61 **And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.** And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Mark 16:4-7 ESV

4 And looking up, they [*Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome*] saw that the stone had been rolled back--it was very large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.

6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.

7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

50 days from Resurrection Sunday to Pentecost Sunday...

Acts 2:14-17 ESV

14 **But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:** "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...

Proverbs 10:12 ESV

12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

Proverbs 17:9 ESV

9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

James 5:20 ESV

20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.