

Church Beware

July 14, 2019

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

- Man's pride and depravity demands a continual distorting and wrestling with God's Truth; always striving with selfish ambition for self-justification.

Jude 1:3-4 ESV

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- Contending for the faith is not to be done in human wisdom, ambitious rivalry, self-righteous superiority, condescending indignation or contentious anger.

2 Timothy 2:14-18 ESV

14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,

17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV

26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

Ephesians 4:14-15 ESV

14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

GOD'S WORD DEVALUED

- The Word of God is not seen as God-breathed and God-inspired; the written expression of God's heart, mind and will, not only to His Church but also to the whole world.
- The absolute Truth of God's Word is being compromised and diminished, subjected to cultural trends, worldly wisdom, depraved morality and subjective reasoning.

Matthew 24:35 ESV

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

James 1:18 ESV

18 Of his own will he brought us forth (apokyeō - to give birth to) by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

2 Peter 1:4 ESV

4 ...he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Psalm 1:2-3 ESV

2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

1 Timothy 4:13-16 ESV

13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Deuteronomy 4:1-4 ESV

1 "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor.

4 But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today.

REBRANDING BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY INTO "PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY"

- By twisting the Truth of God's Word, churches pervert Christianity to win the world's respect and appeal to human carnality.

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4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 5:20-21 ESV

20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!

Isaiah 5:24-25 ESV

24 Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rotteness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

25 Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

CONFUSING CHRISTIANITY WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

- Some mistake the mission of the Church to be making this world and this temporal life “better” by influencing our culture, passing legislation, opposing social inequality and relieving the human condition and suffering. Some even blame the world’s problems on the Church “*not doing enough*” or “*not doing what we’re supposed to do.*”
- God calls us to minister to those in need around us, both believers and unbelievers, but not under the misconception that we are going to change or even “christianize” the culture and world around us.

Galatians 6:10 ESV

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 13:16 ESV

16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Matthew 25:34-40 ESV

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’

38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’

39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Ephesians 6:5-6 NASB

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Ephesians 6:9 NASB

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 ESV

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.

9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.

10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

Matthew 26:7-13 ESV

7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.

8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?"

9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor."

10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.

11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.

13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.