

## Blurring The Lines With The World - Inclusivity

September 22, 2019

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 (*aphorizō - to mark off by boundaries*) from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you.

- ***Discipleship vs. Social Activism***
- ***Grace vs. Inclusivity***
- ***The Way vs. Many Ways***
- ***Biblical Prayer vs. The Power Of The Mind***

### Discipleship vs. Social Activism (Humanitarianism)

#### EXAMPLE #1

*"The church is the hope of the world and, in this particular matter, the only hope for modeling racial unity. We have been called into the new community, with Christ as its center. If we can achieve racial unity in our churches, it truly would be offering the world something it does not already have and could never achieve on its own."*

—"Why Pastors Need to Address Racism Now, Dr. James Emery White, Crosswalk.com, Sep 5, 2019

#### EXAMPLE #2

*"'God's design for the church to end trafficking, I firmly believe, is through vulnerable people like you and me, loving other vulnerable people because Christ was made vulnerable for us,' he added. 'Throughout Scripture, Jesus was always present with vulnerable populations — and so that's what they did, and they saved countless lives as a result.'"*

*Christian Post, Feb 23, 2019*

—"God's Design for the Church Can End Human Trafficking",

#### EXAMPLE #3

*"From its early days as a band of Puritan exiles to its contemporary role as a champion of social justice issues, the evangelical movement has long been concerned with the plight of the outsider. Nearly two million people enter the United States every year, many of them illegally, with an annual waiting list of over 15 million. Growing numbers of international refugees, a sprawling Mexican border, and the proliferation of drugs and terrorism lend urgency to the situation. With the 2010 enactment of Arizona's anti-illegal immigration Senate Bill 1070, parties on all sides began calling for reform at the national level, leaving evangelicals—particularly the burgeoning Hispanic church—torn between the extension of grace and the execution of justice."*

—Christianity Today, Sep 7, 2019

- **There is a very subtle and seductive deception within Christianity where serving mankind for the betterment of the human condition on earth is elevated above serving God and seeking only His will in heaven.**

Romans 1:25 ESV "...worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

- **Doing good and benevolent deeds is not necessarily, in and of itself, doing the will of God.**

Matthew 7:22-23 ESV

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- **Only regeneration by the Spirit and power of God can produce true and lasting change.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- **No amount of social activism or cultural reform will change the nature, trajectory and final end of humanity.**

Romans 3:10-12 ESV

10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Romans 7:18 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

2 Peter 3:7 ESV

7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

- **The Church is commissioned to make disciples; not to improve the world and human existence.**

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- **Neither Jesus nor the original Apostles ever engaged in political or social activism.**

2 Timothy 2:4 CSB

4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer.

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.

- **The Church's relationship to the world depends on the individual response to the Gospel, not whether or not they have a temporal need.**

*Matthew 10:11-15 ESV*

11 *And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.*

12 *As you enter the house, greet it.*

13 *And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.*

14 *And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.*

15 *Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.*

## **Grace vs. Inclusivity**

**"In·clu·siv·i·ty** (noun) *the practice or policy of including people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized."*

### **EXAMPLE #1**

*"Below is my response to an email I received that asked the following question: 'I believe church should be for all of God's children. No exceptions. I am a gay man. My question is, would I be fully accepted with no judgment and fully welcome and able to serve at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church?'" —By David E. Prince, June 3, 2015*

### **EXAMPLE #2**

*"An Ohio Baptist church this summer called a transgender pastor to lead its church, making it one of the few Baptist congregations in the United States to be led by a minister who has a gender identity different from their birth sex."*

*"Peace Community Church called Erica Saunders, a graduate of Wake Forest University School of Divinity, and then held an official welcoming service this month for Saunders, according to Baptist News Global."*

*"The congregation was founded as First Baptist Church of Oberlin in July 1866 and is affiliated with the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, the Alliance of Baptists and the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region."*

*"The letter said Saunders is 'one of the first openly trans women ordained in Baptist life.' Saunders' passions, the letter said, include 'preaching, the study of Christian origins [and] LGBTQ education and advocacy.'"*

—ChristianHeadlines.com, September 16, 2019

## **THE UNCHANGING STANDARD**

*1 Peter 1:14-17 ESV*

14 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,*

15 *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*

16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 ESV

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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,

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

## MAN'S PERVERSION OF THE STANDARD

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.

2 Peter 2:1-2 ESV

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

## THE UNCHANGING STANDARD FOR THE CHURCH

2 Timothy 2:19 ESV

19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

- depart (aphistēmi) to remove, withdraw, shun. flee, keep one's self from, absent one's self from

Ephesians 5:1-7 ESV

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not become partners with them.

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."

## THE MERCY OF GOD

Matthew 5:3-4 ESV

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Failures will be forgiven; it is acquiescence that is fatal, the permitted, regularized presence of an area in ourselves which we still claim for our own."  
—C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"

"You must ask for God's help. Even when you have done so, it may seem to you for a long time that no help, or less help than you need, is being given. Never mind. After each failure, ask forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again."  
—C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

*“Although all believers are subject to many failings and can fall before the smallest temptation, their determination to continue in the faith and their gradual and progressive sanctification are great evidences of salvation and provide a solid ground for assurance.”*

*— Paul David Washer, Gospel Assurance and Warnings*

*1 Peter 4:8 ESV*

*8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*

*James 5:15-16 ESV*

*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.*

## **THE REALITY OF SANCTIFICATION**

*John 15:1-3 ESV*

*1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

*2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

*3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*