

Blurring The Lines With The World - Corruption by Inclusivity

September 29, 2019

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

HOLINESS VS GRACE (Inclusivity)?

Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- We are not saved by good works, but we are not, and cannot be saved without good works.

James 2:14 ESV

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

- To the natural mind, there appears to be many such contradictions in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

- These apparent contradictions can only be received by faith and illuminated by the Holy Spirit with a spiritual understanding.

Ephesians 1:17-18 ESV

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened...

- These apparent contradictions are boundaries and guardrails of God's Truth that keep us balanced and centered in God's will.

1 Corinthians 2:13 YLT (Young's Literal Translation)

13 which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Holy Spirit, with spiritual things spiritual things comparing (sygkrinō - to compare, contrast and combine, to judge one thing in connection with another).

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.*

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.*

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.*

EXAMPLES

*"**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

EXAMPLE #3

"The latest season of "The Bachelorette" laid bare a widespread practice among Christians — premarital sex.

But Scripture plainly speaks against sexual activity outside of marriage. So how did we get here?

Patrice Kelsey Jean, 23, believes the media is partly to blame. 'The media makes it seem so abnormal to be abstinent. The desire to have sex is natural and if nobody is telling you it's wrong, why would you wait?' she told The Christian Post."

"Jean watched the entire season of "The Bachelorette," where Hannah Brown, a 24-year-old professing Christian, tried to find her future husband. What sparked controversy and a national discussion was when one of the men, Luke Parker, expressed his Christian convictions for purity.

Parker told Brown that he wants a wife who believes what he believes when it comes to sex. 'Let's talk about sex and how the marriage bed should be kept pure,' he said. 'Let's say you have had sex with one or multiple of these guys, I would be wanting to go home.'

Offended and feeling judged, Brown confessed that she had 'physical relations' with other contestants but that 'Jesus stills loves her.'

Their spat continued on Twitter after the show. The phrase 'Jesus still loves me' is now a coined phrase in the media and social media platforms."

—"The Bachelorette and the Widespread Practice of Premarital Sex Among Christians" The Christian Post

ADVERTISING VS EVANGELISM

- The way the Church functioned in the New Testament is far more cautious and protective than the American Church of today.
- The American Church has imbibed and succumbed to the philosophy and methodology of advertising.
- The differences between evangelism and advertising are defined by:
 - What is Success
 - Our Ultimate Objective
 - The Strategies Employed

	ADVERTISING	EVANGELISM
SUCCESS	<p>Defined by Temporal and Visible Metrics</p> <p><i>"It is only natural for things that are living to also be growing. If a church is not growing, then it must be dying or already dead."</i></p> <p>2 Corinthians 10:12 ESV</p> <p><u>12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.</u></p> <p>1 Corinthians 4:3-5 ESV</p> <p><u>3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.</u></p> <p><u>4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.</u></p> <p><u>5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.</u></p>	<p>Pleasing our Heavenly Father by doing His will as prescribed in His Word.</p> <p>John 5:19 ESV</p> <p><i>"So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son <u>can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing.</u> For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."</i></p> <p>Matthew 16:21-23 ESV</p> <p><i>21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.</i></p> <p><i>22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "<u>Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.</u>"</i></p> <p><i>23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For <u>you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.</u>"</i></p>
ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE	<p>More People - More Money - More Activity</p> <p><i>Man evaluates success by natural results while God moves mysteriously in the unseen.</i></p> <p><i>Man's carnal ambition and rivalry can be shrouded in "success for God."</i></p> <p>1 Timothy 6:3-5 ESV</p> <p><i>3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,</i></p> <p><i>4 he is puffed up with conceit and</i></p>	<p>Prepare the Church to be a holy and ready Bride for Christ.</p> <p>Ephesians 5:27 ESV</p> <p><i>"So that <u>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.</u>"</i></p> <p>Colossians 3:1-2 ESV</p> <p><i>1 If then you have been raised with Christ, <u>seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.</u></i></p> <p><i>2 <u>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.</u></i></p>

	<p><i>understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,</i></p> <p><i>5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, <u>imagining that godliness is a means of gain.</u></i></p> <p><i>Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT</i></p> <p><i>“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has <u>planted eternity in the human heart</u>, but <u>even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.</u>”</i></p> <p><i>2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV</i></p> <p><i>"for we <u>walk by faith, not by sight.</u>"</i></p>	<p><i>Matthew 6:19-21 ESV</i></p> <p><i>19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,</i></p> <p><i>20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.</i></p> <p><i>21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</i></p>
<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>Appeal to the Majority</p> <p><i>2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV</i></p> <p><i>3 For the time is coming when <u>people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,</u></i></p> <p><i>4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.</i></p> <p><i>2 Peter 2:3 ESV</i></p> <p><i>3 And <u>in their greed they will exploit you with false words.</u> Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.</i></p>	<p>Make disciples who are fully surrendered to God's will.</p> <p><i>Matthew 28:19-20 ESV</i></p> <p><i>19 Go therefore and <u>make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,</u></i></p> <p><i>20 <u>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.</u> And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."</i></p>