

Commandments for Christians part 2

I Thessalonians 5:19-28

- I. Quench not the Spirit- v. 19
 - a. The Holy Spirit is a person (God is a Trinity)
 - b. You receive the Spirit at salvation- Romans 8:9, Eph. 1:13-14
 - c. We are to be filled- Eph 5:18- Indwelt one time, but many fillings!
 - d. The Holy Spirit teaches us, guides us, convicts us- yet this ministry can be stifled, hindered, and limited!
 - e. 'Quench' properly applies to the putting out of a fire (Mark 9:48). The phrase could be more literally translated, "Stop putting out the Spirit's fire."
 - f. How? Saying no to that which the Spirit says yes.
 - g. This command is based on the familiar image of the Holy Spirit as a fire or a flame (Acts). We can provide the environment in which it can burn brightly. Yet a flame can be extinguished when it is ignored and no longer nurtured, or when the flame is overwhelmed by something else.
 - h. Illustr. Fire triangle (Fuel, Heat, Oxygen)
 - i. Lev. 6:8-9, 13- continual burning!
 - j. Sinful choices douses the flames (even secret sins)
 - k. Bad attitude, bitterness, carelessness/apathy, slowly stopped reading the Bible/attending church/serving
 - l. Environment (tv, music, friends/scorners/critics). You can't control everything about your environment, but you can determine not to let it quench the Spirit!
 - m. We can quench the spirit in others too! (discouraging them, being poor examples, etc.)
- II. Despise not prophesyings- v. 20
 - a. The primary NT sense of the word means to speak the word of God
 - b. Strong Bible preaching is a great way to keep the fire lit!
 - c. Prophecy- to foretell, forth-tell.

- d. The Bible teaches that sign-gifts have ceased. We notice that in the latter Christian epistles, and in church History. The Charismatic Movement is a relatively new movement starting in the 1900's.
 - e. People may not like it, but God's plan is to work through the vehicle of preaching! I Cor. 1:21-24
- III. Prove all things- v. 21
- a. Test, sift through, weigh
 - b. Don't be a sucker! Don't be gullible!
 - c. The standard that we must test all things against is God's Word
 - d. When they have been proven, we must hold fast to that which is good
 - e. Be like the Bereans Acts 17:10-12 after Paul fled from Thessalonica
- IV. Abstain from all appearance of evil- v. 22
- a. Guard your testimony! All we have is our influence!
 - b. It takes a lifetime to build a good reputation, but just a moment to ruin it
 - c. Evil is so wicked, even the appearance of evil should be avoided
 - d. This goes against the Contemporary Christian Movement to be like the culture to win the culture- we must avoid it and reject it (Rom. 12:2-be not conformed to this world!)! Music, dress, our speech, our attitudes should not reflect the world
 - e. Evil has a certain "appearance." Some young men think it's cool to wear earrings and dress sloppy; some young women think it's good to dress provocative and immodest.
 - f. This is also a warning against questionable things in life- illustr- H.A. Ironside's wife- "If it's doubtful, its dirty."
- V. Complete sanctification- v. 23-24
- a. Paul has in mind that future day when we will be presented perfect and holy before God
 - b. Sanctification's 3 aspects- positional, progressive, perfect
 - c. But God has also called us to sanctification now in the present world (4:3)
 - d. The goal of sanctification is our entire being
 - e. Our entire being belongs to God!
 - f. How are we sanctified? By yielding ourselves- Romans 12:1
 - g. Total surrender! Have you given everything to Christ yet?
 - h. Is there a room in your life that you have not given over to Christ?
 - i. Wholly- Man is a triune being/trichotomy

- i. Body- outer man
 - ii. Soul- inner man; intellect, emotion, will
 - iii. Spirit- how we relate to God
- j. The soul and the spirit are very similar, yet they are distinct- Heb 4:12
- k. The contrast between sensuality and spirituality. (This is an important distinction when we look at modern Christianity!)
 - i. Psuche vs. pneuma= soul vs. spirit
 - ii. Psuche- is the emotional seat of man- intellect, emotion, and will. This is where “the flesh” pulls and influences. Not just our outer man!
 - iii. Pneuma- is the spirit- our capacity to interact with God. That’s what makes us different from animals!
 - iv. This is where the Holy Spirit indwells when we are saved!
 - v. What are the implications of following your soul (heart, will)?
- l. Sensuality describes the person who lives only for the physical senses. His motto is, “If it feels good, do it” or, “How can it be wrong if it feels so right?”
- m. But, we are called to be spiritual- “worship in spirit and in truth.”
 - i. There is nothing wrong with soulish excitement and blessing, but there is nothing in it that builds us up spiritually. This is why many Christians go from one exciting experience to another but never really grow spiritually – the ministry they receive is soulish.
 - ii. There is importance in God’s order here- spirit, soul, body
- n. V. 23-24- Paul made it clear that sanctification is God’s work in us. When Paul taught the Christian these commandments, he never intended that they do those things in their own power. More Christians are defeated on account of self-reliance than on account of Satanic attack.
- o. The Christian life is not hard, it’s impossible! We need to be God-dependent!

Conclusion:

- Paul closes with his typical final greeting
- He closes similar to how began- emphasizing God’s grace! God can enable you, and strengthen you to obey Him! But we must be surrendered!