

The church is made up of people. On the membership role there are saved and lost members, in the Lamb's book of life there are only the saved. The church in heaven is perfect. The church on earth is not; because we are still robbed in the flesh. Every church is free to conduct services as they see fit under the authority of the Scriptures. We are not bound to do things like the church down the road. But we are to do things under the authority of the Scriptures. I Timothy 3:14, 15 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

There are things a church will do when that church loves the Lord Jesus Christ and is focused on and serving Him. There are also things a church will do when they are not in love with Jesus Christ and are not focused on and serving Him. This is a heart issue. It is so easy to go through the motions; to stay busy in the ministry, but not stay busy for the Lord. When we get here it is common to see a church begin to compromise the Scriptures and make the church appealing to man instead of honouring to God.

Verse 19- but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

Paul's desire here is to edify the church. He doesn't do this by emotions or events, but the Scriptural way is by giving the whole counsel of God. Remember we looked at I Corinthians 14 at those who were seeking what God didn't give to His church. Over and over again Paul stressed the preaching of the word of God because it edified the church.

II Timothy 4:1-4 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Verse 19- but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

Every thought, word, or deed is to edify the church.

dearly beloved- agapetos- spoken of Christians as united with God or with each other in the bonds of holy love.

Holy love will be a Biblical love.

I John 4:12, 20; Hebrews 10:24, 25.

Paul loved the Lord and he also loved the Lord's church, therefore, he wanted the church to be pure. I John 3:3.

This meant he would have to stand against sin, in standing against sin he would have to stand against people, people he loved.

Also in his desire for the church to be pure Paul would have to stand against heretics and their heresies; and he did.

Galatians 1:6-10

accursed- anathema- someone excluded from the favour of God and devoted to destruction.

Paul hated heresies, and those who taught them. Paul is saying let them be excluded from the favour of God. Those who purposely taught heresies had one goal, and that was to destroy the church. Paul loved the Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord's church, therefore, he didn't want to see any one destroyed by the heresies. A church that loves the Lord will not allow false teachers in because they understand the consequences. Think about it this way: would you allow deadly snakes in your home? Of course not; if you love your family members you wouldn't. These snakes would put poison in our loved ones that would destroy them. It is the same way with heretics. What they bring is poison.

A church who loves the Lord will continually be purifying itself from sin and will be on the lookout for heresies. A church who loves the Lord will be edifying one another in love and with the Word of God.

A church that allows heresies to come in and compromises the Word and makes the church about man and not about the Lord will have division. This is a heart issue.

Verse 20- For I fear, lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

Paul's desire is to come to the church at Corinth and to see them doing right and for them to be in a constant state of purifying themselves. If they aren't; for instance, if they are not doing church discipline and if they are not holding each other accountable he will have to do it, and they will not enjoy it. But it will be for their good.

We see the results here in the latter part of verse 20 of a church where the Word of God is compromised and where there is no accountability. When everyone does that which is right in their own eyes there is mass confusion.

I Timothy 6:3-5

Take note of what comes with heresies; destruction.

This is a pattern which is clearly seen. Inquire about a church which splits and has multiple troubles within; you'll find people who are compromising the Scriptures, teaching false doctrines, and have made the church about man and not the Lord. There will be a spirit of competition among the people and the church will not be edified. This is a heart issue.

Verse 21-

sin must be dealt with. Those who are spiritual must deal with it. The spiritual will deal with sin

in love and in humility and with meekness. Stern, but loving. The spiritual will deal with heretics with a strong arm, but deal with the brethren who have been led away and led into sin with love and compassion.

Verse 21- bewail- to grieve for him.

Paul grieves for those who have not repented. Paul understands what will happen to them if they do not from the heart truly repent. I Corinthians 11:31, 32.

Not repenting hurts the person and the church the person is a part of. An Old Testament example would be with the sin of Achan in Joshua 7:1. Sin not repented of hurts every one.

Again, those who are spiritual are to deal with the person or the people. A pastor who loves the Lord also loves the church where the Lord hath placed him and he will have a desire that the church is pure and he will root sin out and keep it out. He will do this according to the Word of God.

This is stressful, painful, but it is profitable for all.

The reason many churches don't do this is because they are scared people will leave the church. Sometimes the one in sin is a family member; or if they deal with that person's sin their sin will also come up and must be dealt with. They would rather turn a blind eye to sin than to deal with it and have the power of God in the church.

Every day we have a choice to make. It is a heart issue. If we love Jesus Christ we will purify ourselves and we will want the church to be pure also. This means we will deal with sin; ours and our loved ones.

The action of sin is a result of sin in the mind and in the heart. The action is the manifestation of sin, not the beginning of it. Take every thought captive. Examine our lives according to the Scriptures. Where have we slacked up? Where have we compromised? Confess this and deal with it.

The Lord deals with us when we don't repent. He knows our hearts. Confess and repent. This is a heart issue. As we learned last week, Lord show me my sins, and the sins I am capable of committing. How is your heart?

Do kingdom work. To God be the glory.