

"...if a person is genuinely saved, his life will change for the better (2 Corinthians 5:17). He is saved "for good works" (Ephesians 2:10), and there is no way he can fail to bring forth at least some of the fruit that characterizes the redeemed (cf. Matthew 7:17). His desires are transformed; he begins to hate sin and love righteousness. He will not be sinless, but the pattern of his life will be decreasing sin and increasing righteousness."

John MacArthur *Getting the Gospel Right*

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: ¹⁰ Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. ¹² For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? ¹³ But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. This is a positional truth because we still sin.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. The operative word here is "should".

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. The idea of inspecting for good fruit is given in the context of evaluating false teachers and was not meant as a general principle. Jesus was saying that false teaching cannot produce true believers.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Why is it so important to keep purity in the church?

Because the church is -

- God's Called Out Assembly, Matthew 16:18
- The Body Of Christ, Ephesians 1:22, 23
- The Bride Of Christ, Revelation 21:9
- The Church Of God, Acts 20:28
- The Church Of The Living God, 1 Tim 3:15
- The Church Of The Firstborn, Hebrews 12:23
- The City Of The Living God, Hebrews 12:22
- The Family In Heaven And Earth, Eph 3:15
- The Flock Of God, 1 Peter 5:2
- The Fold Of Christ, John 10:16
- The General Assembly Of The Firstborn, Hebrews 12:23
- The Golden Lampstand, Revelation 1:20
- God's Building, 1 Corinthians 3:9
- God's Husbandry, 1 Corinthians 3:9
- God's Heritage, 1 Peter 5:3
- The Habitation Of God, Ephesians 2:22
- The Heavenly Jerusalem, Galatians 4:26
- The Holy City, Revelation 21:2
- The House Of God, 1 Timothy 3:15
- The House Of Christ, Hebrews 3:6
- The Household Of God, Ephesians 2:19
- The Lamb's Bride, Ephesians 5:22-32
- The Spiritual House, 1 Peter 2:5
- The Temple Of God, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17
- The Temple Of The Living God, 2 Corinthians 6:16

Since the church is all these things, we should take very seriously the admonition from God to keep it pure.