

Constant Vigilance
Romans 16:17-20
May 14, 2017

Main Point

You must always watch out for and avoid people who threaten the unity of the church. Fight for the church as one participating in Jesus' victory over the devil.

1. You must always remain vigilant against spiritual attack
2. Specifically, you need to be on guard against people who would disrupt the unity of the church
3. When you encounter divisive people in the church, you must avoid them
4. Realize that in this battle for the church, you are guaranteed total and complete victory
5. Fight for the church as one who is participating in the victory of the Lord Jesus over the devil

Cross References and Quotations:

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJ): “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Matthew Henry: “The devil and his agents have a particular spite against flourishing churches and flourishing souls. The ship that is known to be richly laden is most exposed to privateers.”

Stuart Olyott: “... just as there is a connection between true doctrine and godliness (as previous chapters have documented), so there is a connection between false doctrine and selfishness.”

Matthew Henry: “Their words and speeches have a show of holiness and zeal for God (it is an easy thing to be godly from the teeth outward)...”

Acts 20:29-30 (NKJ): “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”

Matthew 10:16 (NKJ): “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

Titus 3:10-11 (NKJ): “Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”

Genesis 3:5 (NKJ): “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:15 (NKJ): “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Revelation 12:11 (NKJ): “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Tim Keller: “Satan suffers defeat each time someone puts their faith in Christ, receives his righteousness and escapes hell; each time a Christian obeys their Father joyfully; and each time God’s people worship together in faith and unity.”

Matthew Henry: “Christ hath overcome for us; disarmed the strong man armed, broken his power, and we have nothing to do but to pursue the victory and divide the spoil. Let this quicken us to our spiritual conflict, to fight the good fight of faith—we have to do with a conquered enemy, and the victory will be perfect shortly.”