
INTRODUCTION

- concludes letter with a litany of moral directives, but rooted in everything that Christ is
 - because in Christ we have come to an unshakeable Kingdom, live out that Kingdom in the here and now
 - holiness is not lived out in some “spiritual realm”, but the mundane and everyday circumstances of life
 - there isn’t a clear connection, but rather simply a listing of specific things they need to take heed to
 - this isn’t Pharisaism or legalism, but seeing the clear connection between doctrine and living
 - glorying in the cross and in the Gospel of God does not negate being confronted with the demands of His Word
 - Ps119:33-36...the cry of the renewed hear
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EXPOSITION
I. MAINTAIN BROTHERLY LOVE – v.1

- brothers of one Father in the family of God – assumes is present, now to maintain and continue
- theological richness, in adoption, sons of God, brothers with Christ

II. SHOW HOSPITALITY – v.2

- lit. stranger lovers; hospitality – particularly those who are strangers, marginalized, isolated
- historical reference to Gen18

III. SYMPATHIZE WITH THE SUFFERING – v.3

- this is intentional identification with the suffering, as much as possible entering into their suffering
- the reality of bodily suffering
- in that day it was those who had been in close association with them, who had been removed from the church
- they were to use their gifts and resources to minister to them, not getting caught up in their own lives atomistically
- in application to us, this would include others the body who are suffering – remember, don’t forget

IV. MAINTAIN SEXUAL PURITY – v.4

- created by God, and as such the only legitimate place of sexuality is within covenant marriage
- there is a lot wrapped up in this word – not merely a personal commitment, but a public commitment and celebration
- it is precious, honorable, and recognized as a great thing; the bed is a euphemism for sexual intimacy
- this is not dirty or shameful, but pure and clean and unsoiled when it follows the event of marriage
- when not following, it is defiled and soiled and a spoiling of what God has given as a great gift
- the only other option to this is to be a fornicator or adulterer – probably referring to any sexual acts outside of God-ordained marriage or sexual acts with those who are already married
- this phrase reminds us that though is God of all, there is something of a heightened horror to this
- this is especially because of its reflection and representation of the Covenant God makes with His people

V. LIVE CONTENTEDLY – vv.5-6

- a way of life driven by always wanting more – consumerism
- when working, and praying, and seeking what God would give, when He gives or withholds to be content
- not hinging our happiness on anyone or anything other than God – this is idolatry
- so we find our contentment and satisfaction in God, to say “God is enough” – with boldness and courage
- He is my helper – I will not fear – I will not let loneliness cripple me – I will not fear those who can kill the body

VI. IMITATE FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP – v.7

- referred to in vv.7, 17, 24 – the same word for consider or think intently about
- as leaders, they are those who are concerned with and thinking about the people of God – this is a mark of leadership
- as they consider, so they speak from God’s word, preaching and teaching and applying the Word to them particularly
- the possibility that this is a reference to those leaders who have died - think about the outcome of their conduct
- they are those who have display real, though imperfect faith (11:1) - imitate their faith

VII. ROOT ALL OF THIS IN JESUS CHRIST – v.8

APPLICATION