

Keeping The Church Pure

Introduction. The will of God is for our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8), but we have another responsibility. Christ wants to present the church as a pure bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:26-27).

I. Teaching The Truth

- A. The Bible includes everything we need to live abundantly (2 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:8; 3:20).
- B. The gospel has the power to change people (Romans 1:16).
- C. Good teaching encompasses the whole Bible (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- D. We study to see if what is taught is true (Acts 17:11). No one should blindly believe anything.
- E. We reject false teaching, no matter how small (Galatians 5:7-9; 2 John 9-11).
 - 1. There are false teachers but they are not usually outright and obvious (Jude 4). The false teacher is a nice, likable fellow (Jude 12).
 - 2. It does not matter what his name is (Colossians 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:10). Even if it is a big name preacher, if they are a teacher of error, we must turn away from them.
- F. We support those teaching the truth (3 John 3-8).

II. Practicing The Truth

- A. Not only do we stand for truth, but we also practice it (James 1:22; 4:17).
- B. Control attitudes and actions in the church.
 - 1. Unity (Philippians 4:2-3).
 - 2. Selfishness (3 John 9).
 - 3. Irreverence and quarrels (2 Timothy 2:16-17).
 - 4. Kindness (Philippians 2:1-4).
- C. Practice orderly, reverent worship (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- D. Exercise discipline appropriately (1 Corinthians 5:5-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 13-15; Romans 16:17-18).
- E. Our actions in the world reflect on the church (1 Corinthians 5:6).

Conclusion. We are given the scriptures, but we are not coerced to follow them. Each of us is responsible, using the Bible as a guide, for keeping the church pure.