

Sermon Notes – September 27, 2015

Review

- ⇒ Psalm 19 uses a variety of adjectives to describe the Word of God. Do you remember them? P_____, S_____, R_____, P_____, C_____, T_____ & R_____. God's living & active Word must be the foundation of our lives!
- ⇒ In John 6 we saw Jesus call people to follow Him, a truly l_____-a_____ decision.

Investigating Today's Text (I Corinthians 5)

- ⇒ Church life can be messy! Ever notice? Nowhere is that more apparent than in I Corinthians. The church in Corinth was blessed by God, gifted for ministry, and in God's faithful hands (READ 1:1-9). However, by human standards, it was a train wreck! Problems included:
 - D_____
 - Sexual sin
 - Inappropriate legal action
 - Abuse of _____
 - Unchecked selfishness
- ⇒ Beneath the presenting problem confronted in today's text lie three principles for today's church with strong implications for church membership and church discipline.

God's People are Called to Holiness of Life

- ⇒ Those who "bear the name" (5:11) are called to holiness. ("so-called" - NAS; "who calls himself" - NIV); READ I Peter 1:13-16
- ⇒ Question: What "boasting" do you think Paul is addressing in 5:2, 6? _____
- ⇒ Interestingly, people *outside* the church often see this more clearly than those *inside*.

- ⇒ Unfortunately, it seems that the call to holiness has been equated with legalism, self-righteousness, judgmentalism, hypocrisy, or an unhealthy pursuit of _____. This text serves as a wake-up call!

God's People are Called to Both Grace and Truth

- ⇒ Grace and Truth are _____, not enemies! Cf. John 1:14 & 17
- ⇒ The NT call for sound doctrine and grace-based holiness is *only* possible when grace & truth are wed. Cf. I Timothy 6:11-16; Titus 3:4-8

God's People are Called to Discernment & Biblical Judgment

- ⇒ God's people are called *away from* a _____ or _____ spirit, but we are *called to* "distinguish good from evil" (READ Hebrews 5:14; Cf. I Corinthians 6:5).
- ⇒ In the early days of the church, Paul told the Thessalonians to "Test everything; hold fast what is good. _____ from every form of evil" (5:21-22).

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ Implications for Church Membership & Church Discipline: If there is no workable method to identify a local body of believers, then the process of church discipline described in today's text is nearly impossible. There must be a way to mark out a group of believers who know Christ as their Savior and are *committed* to sound doctrine.
- ⇒ Application for you & for me: The call to follow Christ is active, not passive. I am not called to be an observer, but an active pursuer of Christ in a life of growing obedience. Are you pursuing holiness?
- ⇒ How is this possible? Only through Christ, our living Savior who daily calls us to *Himself*. Are you pursuing Christ?