

"CONFRONTING A 'TOLERANT' MORALITY"

I Corinthians 5:1-13

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Marriage, a divine vision from God: (*Gen. 1:26-28; 2:24*)

1. One man and one woman in fellowship with their Creator-God:
2. Pursuing "Eden" apart from God when only God can provide it:

B. Redefining a "tolerant" mindset:

1. Absolute truth defined: "Absolute truth is that which is true for all people, in every situation, and for all of time. I must acknowledge that there are fundamental moral and ethical guidelines that exist independently of my own personal opinion. I acknowledge that the distinction between right and wrong is defined outside myself, it does not change from person to person, and it does not change from day to day."
2. Absolute truth defined: "Truth is defined by God for everyone, in every situation, for all of time. It is objective and absolute." God uses absolute truth to protect, provide and perfect me.
3. Tolerant truth defined: "Truth is defined by the individual. It is subjective and situational, largely governed by feelings rather than facts. Satan uses tolerant truth to deceive, divide, and destroy me."
4. "Tolerance" by Webster: "Tolerance is to recognize and respect others' beliefs, practices, etc. without sharing them and to bear or put up with someone or something not especially liked."
5. Defining "new" tolerant truth: The definition of new tolerance is that "every individual's beliefs, values, lifestyle, and perception of truth claims are equal. There is no hierarchy of truth. Your beliefs and my beliefs are equal and all truth is relative. You must give your approval, your endorsement, your sincere support to the beliefs and behavior of others. All beliefs, values, and lifestyles are equal."

C. Leadership at church and in the home: (*See I Cor. 4:21*)

"The pastor is a servant-leader who makes decisions for the local church that from Christ's perspective, are the best thing for the church, at his own expense. The daily sting of his own death to self, is where his leadership must begin." (*See Acts 15:13; Lk. 9:23*)

II. THE PASTOR'S REBUKE AND EXHORTATION ON BEHALF OF CHRIST:

A. The sinful action and the sinful response by leadership: vv. 1-2

- 1.
- 2.

B. The admonition for the church family to take prompt action: vv. 3-8

1. The nature of collective church discipline: v. 3-4 (*Mt. 7:1-5; 18:15-17 – in red*)
2. The authority of church discipline: v. 4
3. What church family discipline must include: v. 5
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

C. The short list of heretical "fleshly" actions and attitudes: vv. 9-11

1.

2.

3.

D. The necessity to be a discerning church family: vv. 12-13 (See 1 Cor. 11:30)

1.

2.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

"Some would say that what you think about God determines how you will live; but it is also true that how you live, determines what you think about God." C. Stanley

C.

"Those who distort grace focus on God's job of 'forgiving' at the expense of their responsibility to 'obey'. The New Testament continually reminds us that living under grace does not relieve us of the obligation of obedience; it intensifies that obligation – a standard that leads to joy, not misery. Joy comes from obeying God. While it is true that there is nothing we can do to earn God's love, there are plenty of things we must do to enjoy God's blessings." Jeffress

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.