

- I) V1 INTRO: Therefore having these promises beloved let us cleanse ourselves
- II) V16 Paul commanded the Church not to enter into **compromising agreements**
Why not? Because we belong exclusively to God
V16 We are the temple of the living God
DEVELOP BRIEFLY
- III) Before we came to Jesus, we were slaves, living in the marketplace of sin
IN SPITE OF THIS
- IV) God purchased us, **ransoming** us from slavery and set us free
We could not ransom ourselves, so He paid the price to redeem us
1 Co 6:20 For you were **bought at a price**; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, **which are God's**
BOUGHT AT A PRICE?
- V) During NT times, Rome had approximately 6 million slaves
If my friend was a slave, I could buy him, write a certificate, and set him free
This is what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross
FACT
- VI) Before Jesus redeemed us, we were in captivity as slaves to sin
Jesus paid, by His blood, the price to ransom us and set us free
1 Pe 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were **redeemed** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors but with the **precious blood of Christ**, a lamb without blemish or defect
REDEEMED?
- VII) To release through the payment of a ransom
PAUL WROTE
- VIII) Eph 1:7 In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches **of His grace**
- IX) **Redemption** in this verse means to release from captivity
It is paying a ransom to release someone from **bondage**, especially slavery
- X) This is what Paul had said in 1 Co 6:20: we were bought at a price
Because of this, out of gratitude we are to glorify God with all that we are
- XI) We are bought at a price, and we are also **the temple** of **the Living God** (V16)
God's true dwelling place is within us, and is not temples **made by human hands**

I) The church is God's **living temple**, set apart for His habitation

Eph 2:20-21 (We) are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto **a holy temple in** the Lord

1 Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you

II) This is what makes the church different then religions of the world

III) God's Spirit takes up residence in us when we are born again

Jn 14:16-17 I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him: but you know Him; for He dwells with you, **and shall be in you.**

IV) Because we are set apart, we don't make alliances that violate this relationship
We are ransomed and no longer take part in the uncleanness of the World

V) 2 Co 6:17-18 Come out from among the and be separate says the Lord
We are to live what is called separated lives: two basic aspects are given

BE SEPARATE? FROM WHAT?

VI) **First:** Separate **from the things of the world** (Satanically energized death system)

Eph 5:5-8 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person -- such a man is an idolater --has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them. **For you were once darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

VII) **Second:** We are separated **from** the world to be **separated to** the Lord

Separation **from** the world leads to **fellowship** with God

Ps 4:3 But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly

BEGIN STUDY

VIII) V1 Therefore having **these promises** beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all
What promises is he speaking of

V16-18 I will **dwell** in them and **walk** among them I will **be their God** they shall be My people, I will **receive** you, I will be **a Father** to you

LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES

- I) Because of these promises we avoid defiling any aspect of our lives
This should produce holy lives revealing that He is our Father, and we are saved
1 Jn 3:3 Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, **just as Christ is pure**
- II) He speaks of **flesh** and **spirit** purity, referring to **internal** and **external** purity of life
1 Pe 1:15-16 Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, **because I am holy.**"
- III) V1 Let us cleanse ourselves
Holiness speaks of separation to God: We dedicate ourselves to Him in *faith*
- IV) There is a practical aspect to holiness that requires of decision of our will
It is something that we **desire** and something we **determine** to do
Ro 6:12-13 **Do not** let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **Do not** offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **offer yourselves** to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and **offer the parts of** your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
THESE ARE DECISIONS
- V) We progress towards spiritual maturity, both **externally** and **internally**
Externally, our lives take on a different way of living
Eph 4:1-3 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Eph 4:29-32 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- VI) **Internally**, our desires that are fueled by the Spirit provoke us to live for Jesus
Gal 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh
Ro 8:9 You however are controlled, not by the flesh, but **by the Spirit** if the Spirit of God **lives in you**. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ
V1 **Perfecting holiness** comes by faith and obedience to God's word

- I) We are God's temple in which God dwells
We do not want to desecrate the temple of the Lord
- II) Jesus did not take kindly to God's house becoming a house of merchandise
God's house was not to be a den of thieves
Because of this, on two occasions he drove out the ones desecrating it
- III) We are the temple of the Spirit, and our desire is to live holy lives, fearing God
The **fear of God**, which is reverential awe, **provides the proper motivation**
Pr 16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil
- IV) V2 Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one,
THIS IS THE 15TH CHARGE
- V) He has wronged, corrupted, and cheated them
As he answers this, he returns to the appeal of 6:11-13: Open up your hearts
HIS POINT
- VI) You can trust me, in contrast to the false apostles **who are not trustworthy**
- VII) He reminds them of how he has treated them
We have **wronged** (injured, financially taken advantage of) **no one**
We have **corrupted** (ruined, defiled—sensual impurity) **no one**
We have **cheated** (taken unfair advantage for personal enrichment) **no one**
- VIII) V3 I do not say this **to condemn**; for I have said before that you are in our hearts
IMPORTANT
- IX) I am not saying that you are all guilty of believing and listening to their gossip
I do not want to be misunderstood as condemning you, because in fact I love you
- X) I am **fully** and **forever** committed to you for **the rest of your lives**
This contrasts with the infiltrators who are wronging, corrupting, and cheating
- XI) In contrast to them, Paul has not taken anything from them
2 Co 11:8-9 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.
And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And **in everything** I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself

- I) The false teachers have accused Paul of being unloving
Paul makes it very clear that he loves them deeply, and forever
- II) He hastens to assure them that He loves them, and is **devoted to them**
1 Th 2:8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear unto us.
- III) V4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting **on your**
I have spoken frankly and openly before you because I am confident of you
- IV) In Ch 6:12 he had said you are restricted **by your own affection**
You have failed to take advantage of the opportunity of fellowship I have offered
- V) Sometimes people in authority are misjudged as being unapproachable
Paul had made himself available to them, but they had not acted upon it
It wasn't him who closed the door, *it was them* (Chuck at Lake Tahoe)
- VI) This is what prompted him to say his heart was open, and to ask them to open up
They had restricted access to him, so they needed to open up and receive him
- VII) **With that said**, he is not angry with them or apologizing for what he has said
The fact is **he boasts** in them and is filled with comfort and joy
There is much about them that causes him to be confident and joyful
- VIII) This is not to say that they have not given him **reason for concern**
The false teachers had exerted influence on some, and the leaven could spread
FACT
- IX) As the church planter and their spiritual father, he was concerned for them
Spiritual seduction can be insidious: a slow and subtle infection, bringing harm
- X) He had deep concern for their spiritual state, as he later expands upon
2 Co 11:3 But **I fear**, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be **corrupted** (defiled) from the simplicity (purity) that is in Christ
- XI) I am alarmed that these impostors are seducing you into unfaithfulness
I fear that your minds may be corrupted (defiled; made impure)

- I) I am concerned that by listening to these impostors your faith will be defiled
The effect of their tactics results in the pollution of your purity and love for Jesus
- II) Because of this legitimate concern, Paul was bringing warnings to them
At the same time, his faith in God was strong
He simply needed to encourage them to remember the essentials he taught them
- III) This brought him great comfort and joy, even when undergoing pressures
He is sure that God is at work in them and you can receive what he had to say
- IV) V5 For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were
HE RETURNS TO 2:12-13
- V) Paul had expected to meet up with Titus while he was **in Troas** (N.W. Turkey)
His hopes were frustrated because Titus wasn't there
2 Co 2:12-13 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel and a door was opened to me by the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them I departed for Macedonia
- VI) He had hoped Titus could give him a report on the condition of the church
Titus wasn't able to update him on how his 1st letter to the church was received
- VII) This caused great unrest: outer conflicts and inner concerns weighed him down
Exactly what he went through isn't disclosed
- VIII) What **we do know** is that he was constantly under conflict and persecution
This would reveal the fatigue and physical pressures he experienced
- IX) V5 He was without rest, troubled, and experiencing conflicts and fears
The gospel was being perverted and he feared the Corinthians would be seduced
AT THE RIGHT MOMENT
- X) V6 God **who comforts the downcast** comforted us by the coming of Titus
Because of the undermining effect of the false teachers, Paul could be concerned
- XI) He was **well aware** of how the enemy planted seeds of division
- XII) The Corinthians had already shown that they could be influenced in that way
1 Co 3:3 Paul had told them they were carnal, having envy, strife, and divisions

- I) Why would he not be concerned over the influence these dividers could have
This kind of thing was not uncommon, as seen in Galatians
- II) Infiltrators had undermined the gospel of grace and he was concerned
Gal 4:20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.
They had undermined the gospel and he didn't know what to do to win them back
- III) In the case of the Corinthians, Paul had **reasonable concern** about them
Titus had come with a good report on their behalf, and it comforted Paul
- IV) V6 God comforts the downcast and in the case of Paul, did so through Titus
Paul had already written that God comforts us in all our tribulations (1:4)
This is what God does
Ps 94:19 When anxiety was great within me, **Your consolation** brought me joy
- V) Titus arrived with good news: in general, the Corinthians were still strong
Paul was refreshed when Titus brought this report
Pr 25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.
- VI) They had **a zeal** for Paul: They had remained faithful to God and loyal to him (V7)
This news of their devotion brought comfort to Paul
His work was not in vain
- VII) V7 and not only by his coming but also **by the consolation** with which he was
His presence was comforting, but his report was truly encouraging
- VIII) V7 Titus told Paul of their earnest desire to see him
- IX) He spoke of their mourning for having brought grief to his heart
Their zeal **on his behalf** (for his teachings and ministry to them)
Their rejection of those who were slandering him
- X) This concern and joy revealed his pastoral heart towards them
1 Th 3:6 Now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you

- I) V8 even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it.
PAUL REFERS TO A PREVIOUS LETTER
- II) He has already mentioned this letter
Ch 2:3-4 speaks of a letter addressing a man who was in sin with his stepmother
- III) He knew that they were struck deeply by what he wrote and it pained him
It was not his desire to injure them, and it was difficult for him to write it
1 Co 4:14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you
- IV) The letter had the desired effect: They had been made sorry in **a godly manner**
HE NOW DEFINES GODLY SORROW
- V) V9 I rejoice not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance
I rejoice, not just in that you were made sorry but that you repented
This is because **godly sorrow** produces repentance to salvation
- VI) V10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be
PAUL CONTRASTS TWO ATTITUDES
- VII) Human **regret**, which is also called remorse, guilt, or shame
Biblical repentance
- VIII) Never confuse **regret** (guilty remorse) with biblical **repentance**
Regret is a general sense of sorrow, often for doing wrong
Sometimes it can be because we **were caught**
- IX) Judas is a good example of someone who **felt regret** after betraying Jesus
Mt 27:3-5 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with **remorse** and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.
- X) The fruit of regret **is death**, because it does not lead to Christ, and forgiveness
Regret brings no sense of **forgiveness**, **joy**, or **restoration** to right favor with God
Judas felt **regret** and the result was that he killed himself
- XI) **Repentance** is a change of mind or purpose; a turning away from sin

I) It contains three basic elements

FIRST

II) **Intellectual**: It is a change of view, regarding your own **true** and **real self**
It is without **making any excuse**, an acceptance that **you** have sinned

III) Sin is recognized **as sin**, not a **mistake**, **error of judgment**, **lack of opportunity**, **education**, **culture**, or **financial situation**

EXAMPLE

IV) 2 Sa 11-12 King David committed the sin of adultery and murder (Uriah)
When Bathsheba told him she was pregnant, David set him up to die

V) The prophet Nathan confronted David over these sins

David was convicted, and his conviction brought him to true repentance

Ps. 51:3-4 For I know my transgressions, and **my sin** is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

SECOND

VI) Repentance can include **true** emotions: Genuine sorrow over sin occurs

Lu 18:13 But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

THIRD

VII) It is **volitional**: There is an inward turning of your heart toward God

THIS INCLUDES

VIII) Confession: 1 Jn 1:9

Forsaking sin: Pr 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Turning to God: Is. 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

IX) Peter also betrayed Jesus, yet Peter sincerely **repented** and was restored

X) The result of genuine repentance is joy and restoration to fellowship with God

Joy is the experiential fruit of righteousness

Ps. 51:7-9 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. **Let me hear joy and gladness**; let the bones you have crushed **rejoice**. Hide your face from my sins and **blot out all my iniquity**.