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Introduction (v1a)

1. The House of God

- (1) The Church = Fullness of new identity
- (2) The church is the hope of the world

2. Be Careful

- (1) Discovery Church
- (2) Full of hypocrites
+ Religious people hate hypocrites = standard of law
+ Non-Christians hate hypocrites = standard of love
- (3) Be careful = not about assimilation, but expectations

I. Church People Are Sometimes Ignorant of their Actions (v1b)

1. Ignorant of the Gospel

(1) Here Solomon highlights the hypocrisy found too often in church

(2) "Sacrifice of Fools" is anything we think pleases God beyond Jesus

+ We really believe our treatment of others pleases Him (anger, neglect, shaming)

2. Ignorant of themselves

(1) "they do not know"

+ Acting out of pain

+ " " " trauma

+ " " " family history

+ " " " ignorance

II. Church People Are Sometimes Rash with their Words (v. 2-3)

1. A problem with our heart

Prov 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Matt 12:34 - ...How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...

(1) "Hasty" - people here are learning to slow their hearts down ... why?

(2) So they can better know:

+ Mind = thinking / understanding

+ Heart = center of one's inner person / being

(ego); desires (will) & emotional processing

East
West

2. A problem with our humility

(1) "Before God" - everything we say is accountable to God

Matt. 12:36 - I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

III Church People Are Sometimes Unreliable in their Promises (v4-7)

1. Promises are not valuable

- (1) v5 - promises are too frequent & too flippant.

Matt 5:33-37 - "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

- (2) Promises are used to communicate seriousness or truthfulness
- (3) Promises are used to manipulate others

2. Promises are not accountable

- (1) v7b - we fail to see how our word is accountable to God

Conclusion (Be the solution)

The best way to confront a life of hypocrisy is to live a life of consistency.

1. When you come to church,
come to draw near

Psalm 73:28 - But for me it is good to [draw] near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

- Combat
Ign.
Actions
- (1) To know the Gospel better
 - (2) To know ourselves better

2. When you come to church,
come to listen

Jam. 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak...

- Combat
Fresh
Words
- (1) To God
 - (2) To each other

3. When you come to church
come to serve

Gal. 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- Combat
Unreliable
Promises
- (1) Serve the Lord
 - (2) Serve the church