

1 Thess. 5.20 –Do not despise prophecies. [1 Cor 1.10-13]

DESPISE:

Make as nothing.

Treat with contempt.

Count as having little value.

BY

Thinking bad things about it...

Or...

By not thinking about it

At all!

WHY?

1. *See so little of it*

Or...

2. *What we do see is so imperfect*

SAME... WITH...

'CHURCH!'

Do not despise the

'CHURCH!'

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RELIGIOUS EYES

VIEW A SINNER...

AND ARE REPELLED.

THEY DESPISE HIM!

GOD'S EYES VIEW *THE SAME* SINNER

-THE VERT SAME PERSON –

- IN THE VERY SAME CONDITION –

AND HE'S ATTRACTED.

AND GOD... LOVES HIM!

WHY?

FLESH EYES MEASURE FLESH
LEAVING US ALL CONDEMNED
OTHERS CONDEMNED
THE CHURCH CONDEMNED

****FLESH**

IRRITABLE? LITTLE BIT LUSTY?

1. RESISTS SALVATION
2. DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL - HITLER/HAMAS
3. SATAN'S PORTAL - BASE OF OPERATIONS.

FLESH EYES MEASURE FLESH
LEAVING US ALL CONDEMNED
OTHERS CONDEMNED
THE CHURCH CONDEMNED

SPIRIT EYES MEASURE THE SPIRIT
LEAVING US AWARE OF GOD'S LOVE
FOR US ALL
FOR OTHERS
AND FOR THE CHURCH

FLESH EYES SEE A FLESH CHURCH

*BUT GOD'S EYES...
SEE HIS PERFECT BRIDE!*

*- THE VERY SAME CHURCH –
- IN THE VERY SAME CONDITION –*

WE NEED
GOD'S EYES
*IF WE WANT TO
UNDERSTAND AND LOVE
GOD'S CHURCH...
JUST LIKE HE DOES!!!!*

Rev 21.9-11- ⁹One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Ps 137.5-6 - ⁵If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
Let my right hand forget *its skill!*
⁶If I do not remember you,
Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—
If I do not exalt Jerusalem
Above my chief joy.

****SONG OF SOLOMON**

Zeph 3 – God rejoices over his church... WITH SINGING!

Ps 48.1-6 - Great *is* the Lord, and greatly to be praised

In the city of our God,

In His holy mountain.

² Beautiful in elevation,

The joy of the whole earth,

Is Mount Zion *on* the sides of the north,

The city of the great King.

³ God *is* in her palaces;

He is known as her refuge.

⁴ For behold, the kings assembled,

They passed by together.

⁵ They saw *it*, *and* so they marveled;

They were troubled, they hastened away.

⁶ Fear took hold of them there,

And pain, as of a woman in birth pangs...

Ps 48.11-14 - ¹¹ Let Mount Zion rejoice,

Let the daughters of Judah be glad,

Because of Your judgments.

¹² Walk about Zion,

And go all around her.

Count her towers;

¹³ Mark well her bulwarks;

Consider her palaces;

That you may tell *it* to the generation following.

¹⁴ For this *is* God,

Our God forever and ever;

He will be our guide

Even to death.

The church is not peripheral

To the world!

The world... is peripheral...

To the church!

3 INSTITUTIONS

ESTABLISHED BY GOD ON EARTH!

1. THE *FAMILY UNIT* . . . God ordained...
2. *CIVIL GOVERNMENT*
3. *THE CHURCH*

The *FAMILY UNIT* ... God ordained...

Is only for a season.

*Into eternity... no marriage
or giving in marriage.*

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

will also one day
come to an end...

When the kingdoms of this world...

Become the Kingdom of our God...

And of His Christ!

BUT THE CHURCH?

SHE GOES ON...

FOREVER!!

CENTRAL!

NOT PERIPHERAL!

She's the only

God made institution

That God is building today...

That will last into eternity!

Everything else is scaffolding.

But the Church?

SHE'S THE BUILDING!

"Yeah! Well... I love Jesus!

I just don't love the church!"

"Oh!! Really?!!!"

"Let me get this right then:

You love the head of the body...

And want to be close to that...

But you don't like the Body

That the head is attached to...

And don't want to be close to that?"

"IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING??"

"You love the husband...

And want to have time with him...

As long as he doesn't

have his wife around

because you can't stand her?"

"AM I GETTING THAT RIGHT NOW??"

THE PROBLEM IS:

That Christ

identifies a little more

Personally ...and closely
with the church...
Than some people
give him credit for!

SAUL OF TARSUS
*... IS FURIOUSLY
DESTROYING...*
THE CHURCH!

SO JESUS APPEARS
AND SAYS:

“SAUL! SAUL!
WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING...
ME!!”

You reject the body...
I want to tell you...
You're rejecting the
Body's Head!

We love Christ!
And because we do...

WE... LOVE... HIS BODY...
HIS BRIDE...
THE ONE HE LOVES...

THE 'CHURCH!'

****I LOVE CHRIST'S CHURCH!**
I'M HAPPY TO BE A PART OF...
CHRIST'S CHURCH!
TO BE A MEMBER OF
CHRIST'S BODY!

WEEKS AHEAD:
2 Churches: Corinth & Ephesus!

TODAY: The Church at Corinth!

**MAP

'CORINTH'
[means 'Ornament']

Population up to 700,000.
*[Almost the size
of Denver. CO]*

A large portion
of the population
was enslaved.

It was a traveling,
seafaring and mobile community
made up of a mix
of many diverse races and cultures.

It was a major hub
of the Roman Empire's commerce...
And was known
for its advanced schools in
art, philosophy and science.

It controlled
a mile 4-mile-wide isthmus
which brought it
great wealth!

It was the capital city of Achaia
It was about 65 miles west of Athens...
70 miles northeast of Sparta
and 70 miles east of Olympia...

and was a well-known
sports venue in those days...

every 2 years hosting
the ISTHMIAN GAMES
[similar to the Olympics held in Olympia...
..just 70 miles to the east].

It was also famous
for its Temple of Aphrodite
with prostitute priestesses...
and the seamen's and drunkard's
playground of immorality.

To the point that
A new Greek word was created:
Korinthiazomai:
"To act the Corinthian"
Which meant
"to commit fornication".

Paul first visited Corinth in 51 AD
on his Second Missionary Journey...

CORINTH
Is when and where Paul first met

Aquila and Priscilla.

All of this was just
a short 21 years after
Christ's crucifixion...

And 17 years after
his own conversion
on the road to Damascus.

THE CHURCH
AT... CORINTH!

1 Cor 1.10-13 - ¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

AMPC

But I urge and entreat you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in perfect harmony and full agreement in what you say, and that there be no dissensions or factions or divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in your common understanding and in your opinions and judgments.

THE EASY ENGLISH BIBLE

'Please agree with each other. Do not become separate groups. Be united and think about things in the same way.'

MSG

I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.

DIVISIONS:

SCHI'SMA:

Dissention.

The tearing of a garment.

Split. Gap. Schism.

PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER:

KATARTI'ZO:

Something that is prepared or equipped

to exactly fit

in good working order.

Adjusted to fully function.

Arranged to be what it ought to be!

¹¹ For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, BY THOSE OF CHLOE'S HOUSEHOLD, that there are contentions among you.

DECLARED:

DELO'O:

Make clear. Reveal.

Help make plain and understandable.

CONTENTIONS:
ER'IS:
Strife. Wrangling.
Quarrels. Debates. Differences.

CHLOE'S FAMILY
'Ratted out'
the Corinthian Church
To Paul!

"Don't trust them anymore!"
"Snitches!"

"Chloe's family is
a bunch of snitches!"
"Can't trust them anymore!"

"But me?
I'm loyal!
You can trust me!
MR. CONFIDENTIAL!
I can keep secrets!
Yes sir!"

Paul not only
didn't correct Chloe's family
For saying something
they shouldn't have said

BUT HE OPENLY
CREDITED THEM
BY NAME...
IN HIS LETTER
TO THE VERY PEOPLE
THEY REPORTED!!

The U.S.A. is
soooooooooooooo...
confused as to
what is legal...
what is appropriate
to say to who!!!

'Political correctness'
[for the most part]
EQUALS
'WOKE CENSORSHIP'!

The current SYSTEM
and its

Controlling power centers
Of our society
[academia/media/politics]
Accepts 'woke'
thought and speech... *only*.

And works to eliminate
All opposing thought and speech...
Especially Christian...
The primary 'counter-culture'
Pushing back against
The perverted/distorted/twisted ideas
Being pushed on a
Christian population
That doesn't want them!

"YOU MUST THINK THIS!"
"YOU MUST SPEAK THAT!"

Freedom of speech
Is being chipped away at
Bit-by-bit...

As we are indoctrinated
With the
fear of violating
Supposed...
social norms!

Self-identifying pronouns!

You can't say 'he'!
'She'!

**Conservative News:
"Born a biological male...
'SHE'
is now competing for the
National title
In women's swimming!"

And when our children
Are groomed with instructions
In elementary schools:
"Tell your teacher!
But don't tell
your parents!?"

GOD SAYS
"I... APPOINTED PARENTS
NOT TEACHERS

AS THE AUTHORITIES
AND THE TRAINERS
OF CHILDREN IN SOCIETY!"

AND IN THE SAME WAY...
IN THE CHURCH...

CHLOE'S FAMILY
UNDERSTOOD A GREAT TRUTH:

GOD...
Sent Paul...

To BIRTH...
The Corinthian Church...

TO
TRAIN AND RAISE
The Corinthian Church
As SPIRITUAL CHILDREN...

GOD...
Made Paul their
'father in the faith'

*"You may have many teachers...
But you only have one father!"*

SO...Chloe's family
APPROPRIATELY...
informs Paul...

*"CORINTH?
Your spiritual son on the faith?
Do you know
Secretly he's using heroin...
And snuck a woman
into his room last night...*

AS HIS DAD...
*We thought
You might need to know!"*

Shepherds!
*"KNOW THE CONDITION
OF YOUR FLOCK!"*

Flock!
*"THEY WATCH
FOR YOUR SOULS!"*

Not
speaking of
SOUL-MANUFACTURED
oppressive
BIG BROTHER
police-state
GESTAPO
Control-oriented
'*report your neighbor*'
surveillance...
That leads people into
Slavery!

BUT
The TRUE... SPIRIT-LED...
God-assigned task
Of caring
As a mom or a dad
For people's faith
and watching for their
souls
in a way that
leads people into
freedom!

When things get
serious enough.. that...
Somebody is being damaged...
Somebody is damaging others...
Find somebody
THAT GOD HAS GIVEN
THE RESPONSIBILITY
Of caring for their lives...

AND LET THEM KNOW!

GO AHEAD!
Be like Chloe's family!

OF COURSE...
Don't spread gossip!
Don't carelessly expose
Other people's
Sins or weaknesses
To just anyone!

BUT REMEMBER...
there ARE
God appointed messengers...
SHEPHERDS ON ASSIGNMENT...

So when a situation
gets serious enough...
*ELDERS... NEED TO
BE MADE AWARE!*

“So-and-so is talking to
So-and-so about
So-and-so...
Who hurt so-and-so...
*A root of bitterness
Is defiling many...*
Now half the church is
Infected by somebody’s
toxic bitterness...
*But I don’t want to
Break a confidence...*
I can’t tell you the name
Of the person

THAT’S BURNING
THE CHURCH DOWN!”

SATAN SOUNDS...
JUST LIKE
THE GOVERNMENT
TELLING A CHILD
*“TALK TO
THE TEACHER...
THE FRIEND...
A SOCIAL EXPERT...
THE DOCTOR...
THE SURGEON...
BUT NOT THE PARENT!!!”
IT’S OUR SECRET!*

WHILE
GOD SAYS
*“It’s the PARENTS...
That I’ve given the grace
And the responsibility to!
Talk to them!”*

IN JUST THE SAME WAY
When hurt and damage
*Is going on
in God’s church*
Find people
Who are carrying God’s ministry
And respect
The fact that they do!

BE LIKE
CHLOE'S FAMILY
WAS TO PAUL
*REGARDING THE
CORINTHIAN CHURCH!!*

Here's a little secret
I learned a long time ago!

I REFUSE
TO BE SWORN TO *SECRECY!*

If you trust me enough
To share information with me...
*Then you must also
trust my judgment...*
*Regarding what I do with it
Once you tell me!*
If you can't trust me with that...

YOU'D BETTER KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!