

FORBIDDEN WORDS UNDER GRACE – Part 2

Things That Often Offend Pauline People But Shouldn't

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.”
– 1 Thessalonians 4:1

2. Offenses to Our Liberty in Christ / Not Under Law

- a. Commandments/Law – 1Thes 4:2, 4:11, 2Thes 3:4 vs. Gal 2:21, Rom 3:21 & 6:14, Titus 1:14
 - i) Aren't always the Mosaic law—Eph 2:15, 6:2, Rom 7 vs Col 2:22 (of men), 2Co 8:8/Ro 16:26 (of God), Rom 8:2
 - ii) What does communication of truth, exhortation, doctrine, instruction in righteousness look like? 2Tim 3:16
 - iii) Paul's commands have a function (2Co 1:24) & can be given by BoC members to others (Col 4:10, 1Tim 4:11)
 - iv) If Paul is God's chosen vessel/pattern for the church, his commands are important – 1Ti 1:16, 2Ti 2:7, 1Cor 11:1
- b. Ordinances (order, orderly, ordain) – 1Cor 11:2, Rom 13:2 vs. Eph 2:15, Col 2:14 & 2:20
 - i) Ordinance: an established rule, appointment, or observance for order – 1Cor 14:40, Eph 2:10, 1Thes 5:14
 - ii) The problem with organized religion is the religion, not the organization (order) – 1Cor 16:1, Col 2:5, Titus 1:5
 - iii) God is not the author of confusion (or chaos or disorder or unruliness) – 1Cor 14:33
- c. Tradition – 2Thes 2:15 & 3:6 vs. Col 2:8, 2Tim 4:3-4
 - i) Many who learn their traditions were founded on wrong doctrine throw the baby out with the bathwater.
 - ii) Scripture not silent about bad traditions (Mar 7:3-13, 1Pe 1:18), but also speaks of good (Luk 2:27, 2:42, 4:15)
 - iii) Tradition is not an authority; but can teach, prioritize, propagate, and produce affinity & faithfulness
 - iv) What are some of Paul's traditions? 2Tim 3:10, 1Tim 4:12-16, 1Thes 1:3, 2:10-12, 3:12, 4:1-12, 5:11-27
- d. Submit – 1Cor 9:19 & 16:16, Eph 5:21 vs. Gal 1:10, 1Tim 2:5, 1Cor 7:23, Rom 14:4 & 14:12
 - i) In order to serve something, you must submit yourself to it. We all submit to something—Luk 16:13, Rom 6:16
 - ii) God wants us to submit to...
 - Him (Rom 12:11)
 - the gospel (2Cor 9:13),
 - righteousness (Rom 6:18)
 - each other (Eph 5:21)
 - elders (1Tim 5:17)
 - laborers (1Cor 16:16)
 - masters (1Tim 6:1-2)
 - earthly powers that be (Titus 3:1)
 - iii) But if not, we will submit to...
 - Satan (Acts 26:18)
 - idols (1Thes 1:9)
 - sin (Rom 6:17)
 - your own righteousness (Rom 10:3)
 - lusts of the flesh (Eph 2:3)
 - false teaching (Rom 16:18)
 - false brethren (Gal 2:4)
 - course of the world (Titus 3:3)

- iv) We were bought with a price to be freed from sin & death, but also to now serve the Lord – 1Cor 7:22-23
- v) Serving God means submit to his will, his commands. Subjection is our reasonable service—Eph5:24, Rom12:1
- vi) Considering others over yourself (submission) is the essence of the mind of Christ—Phi 2:3-8, Ro 12:10, 2Co 4:5

e. Proving/Approving—Rom 14:18, 2Cor 5:9, 2Tim 2:15 vs. Eph 1:6, Rom 15:16

- iv) To prove—*def*: to establish as true with evidence; to test or try; to verify or show (2Cor 8:8)
- v) To approve—*def*: to commend or be pleased with; to show to be worthy; to sustain as right (2Cor 7:11)
- vi) Re: *acceptable*—There's more than God's ultimate plan that is pleasing to Him (Eph 1:5 & 9, Gal 1:15, Col 1:19)
 - (1) Israel had to work to maintain their standing in a covenant—Mark 13:13, Jam 1:12, 1Pet 1:7,9,13-14
 - (2) Our justification, sanctification, position with God is complete in Christ Jesus by grace—1Cor 1:30, Eph 1:6
 - (3) How God operates has changed, but not his position on right and wrong—1Tim 2:3, 5:4, Phi 4:18
 - (4) There are things that are pleasing (or not) to God—Ro 8:8, 1Co 1:21, Phi 2:13, Col 1:10 & 3:20, 1Thes 2:4
- vii) Paul points out people who have proven their faith & commends them—Rom 16:10, 2Cor 6:4
- viii) Paul calls us all to prove our faith—Rom 12:2, 2Cor 2:9 & 13:5, Gal 6:4, Eph 5:10, Phi 1:10, 1Th 5:21, 2Tim 4:5
- ix) As good soldiers, we should strive to submit to our Lord by serving in ways that are pleasing to him—2 Tim 2:4
- x) The only way we can know how to do that is to obey the commandments, ordinances, & traditions he has provided through our pattern & apostle—1Thes 4:1