

Romans 16:18

Good Words and Fair Speeches

1. Serving the Lord Jesus Christ

- a. Paul talks more about separation than heaven, hell, baptism, Lord's supper (simple issues)
- b. It is an uncomfortable subject, because it requires knowledge, conviction, and sacrifice.
- c. *"for they that are such"* – Causing offense to the gospel, and division from the truth.
- d. *"serve not our Lord Jesus ..."* - The offence is also to Christ, the division from Christ's work
- e. The work of Christ is to for all to come unto the knowledge of the truth - 1 Tim 2:4, 3:15
- f. To minister sound doctrine is to work with Christ - Gal 3:1, Eph 4:15, Phi 2:30, 2 Cor 6:1,
- g. Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ always stand with doctrinal truth - 2 Cor 4:2
- h. This service to truth requires faithfulness, purity, honesty - 2 Cor 6:6-7, 1 Cor 4:2
- i. ... and true charity - 1 Cor 13:4-7 (not about self being right, but truth benefiting others)

2. Serving Their Own Belly

- a. Pleasing people, receiving others, over truth - Gal 1:10
- b. Religious bondage and tradition instead of the truth of Christ - Gal 6:12
- c. Seeking your own things over truth in others - Phi 2:10
- d. Minding earthly things and glorying in their flesh - Phi 3:19 (see Phi 3:1-7)
- e. Speculation, tales of heaven, spirit beings, unseen forces, ascetic exercise - Col 2:18, 1Ti 4:1
- f. Thinking gain is godliness over true doctrine (size, money, property, power)- 1Tim 6:1-6
- g. The Corinthians suffer fools that serve their own belly - 2 Cor 11:18-21
- h. Corrupting the word of God for any reason or justifying end is not serving Christ - 2Cor 2:17
- i. Storytelling, comforting comments, "sounds good" over sound doctrine - 2 Tim 4:3-4

3. Good Words and Fair Speeches

- a. *"by good words and fair speeches"* - These unfaithful servants are teachers!
- b. e.g. God wants you happy, healthy, wealthy, pain-free, successful, heart's desire - Ps 10:5
- c. Stopping these teachers requires faithful men able by sound doctrine to convince Ti 1:9-14
- d. *"deceive the hearts"* - How they cause divisions & offences not serving Christ
- e. The reason Paul gives warning is because these teachers are attractive - Col 2:3-4, 8
- f. There is an attractiveness to enticing excellent speech and wise words - 1 Cor 2:1-5
- g. You might suppose these to be brutish, railing, angry, hateful, lying troublemakers, *but no*.
- h. Are we not supposed to give good words and fair speeches? Not with wrong doctrine.

4. The Hearts of the Simple

- a. It is not loving to acquiesce to error and be silent about wrong doctrine – it hurts others.
- b. The heart is where one believes and loves, but it must be acc. to truth - 2 Th 2:10-13
- c. It is also where wisdom resides. W/o wisdom it boasts, deceives, demands - Prov 3:5
- d. The simple believe every word, but the prudent man looks well ... - Prov 14:15
- e. The simple are thrown about, unwise, and believe every spirit - Eph 4:14, 5:17, 1 John 4:1
- f. The word of God gives understanding to the simple - Ps 119:130, Col 1:5, 2:3, 8
- g. They need to be men in understanding, grown up, but error stunts growth - 1 Cor 14:20
- h. For the sake of simple, children, unlearned, unbelievers we mark and avoid these teachers.
- i. The church should care more about the simple brother than the errant teacher - 1 Cor 8:12
- j. If you do not mark and avoid, the hearts of the simple will be deceived.
- k. Telling others to merely avoid these messy ministers is civil, peaceful, loving, and edifying.

Reasons to Separate from Wrong Doctrine

Paul's teaching to separate, withdraw, and avoid those who teach wrong doctrine is always for the sake of the truth, and never for personal reasons.

1. To keep the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace - Eph 4:3-6
2. Profane and vain babblings lead to more ungodliness – 2 Tim 2:16
3. Unsound words are cancerous to faith – 2 Tim 2:17
4. Errors can overthrow the faith of others – 2 Tim 2:18
5. It is honorable – 2 Tim 2:21
6. It is pure – 2 Tim 2:22
7. Perverting the gospel does not please the Lord – Gal 1:7-10
8. It corrupts good manners to acquiesce to wrong doctrine – 1 Cor 15:33
9. It is safe – Phil 3:1-2
10. It is a good ensample – Phil 3:17
11. Ministers of the cross cannot walk (minister) with enemies of the cross – Phil 3:18
12. Not all men have faith – 2 Thess 3:2
13. It approves us as ministers of God – 2 Cor 6:6-7
14. We have no part with them that do not believe the truth – 2 Cor 6:15
15. There is no communion with light and darkness – 2 Cor 6:14
16. When we separate God receives us – 2 Cor 6:17
17. It keeps us from the error of thinking gain is godliness – 1 Tim 6:5
18. It maintains order – 2 Thess 3:6-7
19. To admonish a brother – 2 Thess 3:14
20. It is a shame to speak of unfruitful works – Eph 5:11-12
21. It manifests the wrong, making it known – Eph 5:13
22. To maintain soundness in the faith – Titus 1:13
23. To prevent brothers/sisters from turning from the truth – Titus 1:14
24. It redeems the time, you can get more work done without infighting – Eph 5:16
25. A failure to separate will lead to unprofitable and vain wastes of time – Titus 3:9
26. It removes heresy from the group – Titus 3:10
27. It proves what is acceptable unto the Lord – Eph 5:7-10
28. It protects the conscience of the weaker brother – 1 Cor 8:12
29. It preserves the pillar and the ground of the truth – 1 Tim 3:15
30. It purges out the leaven – 1 Cor 5:7
31. It is good judgment – 1 Cor 5:11-12
32. To maintain godliness and the power of God – 2 Tim 3:5