

MINISTRY INTEGRITY

SEMINAR 2023 | MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH | SESSION 7

“...that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine” – 1 Timothy 1:3

1. The Need for Purity

- a. Ministers of the pillar & ground of the truth must be pure from errors – 2Cor 6:4-6
- b. Integrity = purity; wholeness, entireness; genuine, unadulterated, unimpaired state
 - i. Standing **for** God’s truth over opinion, preference, tradition, majority, persecution, loss
 - ii. AND Standing **against** that which is contrary to the truth (*a great ministry opportunity*)
- c. Teaching right doctrine is necessary but different than teaching no other doctrine – 1Tim 1:3
- d. Wrong doctrine coming from the mouth of a “right divider” makes him a WRONG divider!
 - i. Rom 3:4 – “Let God be true, but every man a liar” applies to believers, too
- e. God’s perfectly preserved words as the objective final authority are necessary for purity
 - i. Error most rampant where God’s words are changed, diminished, or ignored
- f. Church ministry requires integrity to acknowledge, avoid, & separate from doctrinal error
- g. Church ministry also requires integrity to admit your own error, correct it, & make it right

2. Rebuke, Correction, Warning, Marking, & Avoiding = Essential Functions of Church Ministry

- a. This is how avoiding & purging happens. Pointing out error clarifies & establishes the truth.
- b. A prominent – but oft despised or ignored – Pauline pattern:
 - i. Reproof/Rebuke – 2Tim 4:1-2, Titus 2:15, 1:13 (for soundness of faith)
 - ii. Warning – 1Cor 4:16 (for the benefit of others), Col 1:28 (teaching AND warning)
 - iii. Marking – 1Tim 1:6, 1:18-19, 6:10, 6:20-21; 2Tim 2:17-18 (naming names!)
 - iv. Avoiding/Separating – Ro 16:17-18 (for the protection of others); 2Th 3:14 (for repentance); 1Ti 6:3-5, 2Ti 3:5, Ti 3:10 (for purity of ministry & speaking truth in love)

3. Ministry TO vs. Ministry WITH (OR Essentials vs Non-Essentials)

- a. Many find separation hard. Where are the dividing lines? How much error can be suffered?
- b. Amos 3:3 – “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” How about 3, 10, 50, or 100?
- c. The essentials to be saved are far less than the essentials to minister together in the church
- d. Limiting the essentials of ministering together to salvation only just creates social gatherings of saved people instead of the maturing & edification of the body God has prescribed
- e. How can a local church grow together in the Lord, if they disagree on what that looks like?
There is nothing non-essential about the doctrines of edification in a church.
- f. Ministering **TO** someone can happen if you agree or not; Ministering **WITH** someone side by side can only happen if you agree (or are growing in agreement).
- g. ~~“In essentials unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things love”~~ should really be...
“In essentials unity; in Christ there are no non-essentials; always speak the truth, in love.”
- h. God gives mercy & grace, but never compromises truth – neither should his ministers