

Church Matters

Honoring Our Commitments Matters
Sunday November 29, 2009
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Message Truth:

Too few Christians are committed to being obedient in their lifestyle and maintaining unity in their relationships by being accountable to God and one another. Typically our church experiences are marked by division and disappointment. This is not how Christ's bride is to behave. For church to matter to us as much as it should we must honor the commitments we have made to obey Christ, live for Him personally, and walk in unity and accountability with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Series Text:

⁸ Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. ⁹ I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret **from the beginning.** ¹⁰ **God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom** in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ **This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Ephesians 3:8-11 (NLT)

Obedience Matters

²³ Jesus replied, "**If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.** My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. John 14:23-24

1. Our obedience is a s_____ test of our love for

Christ than are our p_____.

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** ²⁸ **I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.** ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.** ³⁰ I and the Father are one." John 10:25-30

2. True disciples of Jesus I _____ to Him and f_____ Him.

3. The s_____ of a true disciple of Jesus is s_____ in His and His Father's hand.

Lifestyle Matters

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. ²⁰ **You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.** ²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² **You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.** ²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and **do not give the devil a foothold.** ²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands,

that he may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² **Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**
Ephesians 4:17-32

4. The l_____ of those who know Christ is different from those who do not know Him.
5. Those who know Christ are to p_____ a_____ the old self (flesh nature). In doing so we do not give Satan a f_____.

²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil.
1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

6. When in doubt as to whether something is r_____ or w_____ we should err on the side of caution.

Unity Matters

⁶ . . . but **whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.** ⁷ “Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!” ⁸ “If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. ⁹ “If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.
Matthew 18:6-9 (NASB)

7. One of the most egregious sins we can commit is to place a s_____ b_____ in another’s spiritual path.
8. One way we do this most often in the church is through a church f_____ or s_____.

³⁶ But I tell you that **men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.** ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”
Matthew 12:36-37

9. Words spoken in anger or without our thinking hurt, but the person they will hurt most eternally is the s_____.

²³ “Therefore, **if you** are offering your gift at the altar and there **remember that your brother has something against you**, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First **go and be reconciled to your brother**; then come and offer your gift.
Matthew 5:23-24

¹⁵ “**If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.** If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ Matthew 18:15-16

10. Unity between us is so important that the Scripture covers b_____ sides in a personal relationship.

Accountability Matters

¹¹ It is written: “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’ ” ¹² So then, **each of us will give an account of himself to God.**
Romans 14:11-12

11. I should prepare myself for the accounting I will give G_____.