

COMBER FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“How to experience close fellowship with the Lord”

Bible studies in Psalm 15 with

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MESSAGE 4

The Believer's Ways V4

The way in which we treat other people does affect our fellowship with the Lord.

You are not to treat every one the same!

The way you think & act & speak about and to other people has a profound affect on the closeness of your fellowship with God.

We are to-

1. REJECT THE REPROBATE

We are to AVOID the wicked and treat them with contempt. Christ warned us to beware of false prophets and many times in the New Testament, we are told to avoid apostates and heretics.

The word 'vile' describes the scum that rises to the surface when gold or silver is being refined. The silversmith treats it with contempt. He skims it off and throws it away. The believer must feel that way about the vile person.

Loving the Lord necessitates hating evil (Ps 97:10). Ps 139:21, 22 'do not I hate them that hate the Lord.'

This is NOT REFERRING to unbelievers in general.

Psalm 1:1 teaches separation and warns us not to:

Walk in the counsel of the ungodly

Stand in the way of sinners
Sit in the seat of the scornful
There is an obvious progression suggested in this verse.

The believer who ignores this warning will end up in close identification with the blasphemous crowd. We are to be in the world but not of the world.

We should not listen to the ungodly man, linger with the sinful man or laugh with the scornful man.

Two men who sadly did this were Lot and Samson.

To note the progression in Lot's life read Gen 13:10, 12; 14:12; 19:1.

We should not allow ourselves to be deceived because 'evil communications [do] corrupt good manners'. (1 Cor 15:33).

Avoid the Moral reprobate:-Prov. 26:11; 13:10 and the

Religious reprobate:- 2 Pet 2:24; 2 John v9-11.

2. RESPECT THE RIGHTEOUS

The first part of the verse tells us whom to AVOID while the next part tells us with whom to ASSOCIATE.

We are to 'honour them that fear the LORD'. While we are to hold the wicked in contempt we are to commend the godly.

Separation is always from and unto!

Moses the man who went up the hill of God not only separated himself from Egypt he joined himself to God's people.

Since we become like those with whom we spend our time, Christ like friends need to be sought out for companionship.

In Mal 3:16-18 we read of believers who spoke to each other about the Lord. He was so pleased He recorded their words in a book of remembrance. The same chapter makes a comparison between the wicked and the righteous.

Both groups are distinguished by their words about the Lord.

The many 'one another' passages in the New Testament surely teach us how to honour fellow believers.

John 13:34 love one another; Rom 12:10 preferring one another; Rom 14:13 do not judge one another. Rom 15:7 receive one another. Rom 15:14 admonish one another
Rom 16:16 Greet one another Gal 5:13 serve one another. Gal 5:15 [Do not] devour one another; Gal 5:26 Do not provoke or envy one another; Eph 4:2 forbear one another in love. Eph 4:32 forgive one another; Col 3:16 teach and admonish one another; 1 Thess 4:18 comfort one another 1 Thess 5:11 edify one another; Heb 3:13 exhort one another; Heb 10:24 consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; 2 Jn v5 love one another.

The most repeated command is to 'love one another.'

Ephesians 4

Honouring one another in the congregation is to: --

3. REMEMBER YOUR UNITY

V3 the unity of the spirit. V4-6 Notice the term, ONE.

Gift of the Spirit

4. RECOGNISE YOUR DIVERSITY

Church is a body and it grows through the development of every part of the body.

V16 All parts of the body are important.

Diverse in Personalities. Diverse in responsibilities and in gifts.

V7 unto Everyone. Is given grace==A spiritual gift. V11 Gave some.

See 1 Cor 12.

Gifts of the Spirit

5. RESPOND WITH MATURITY.

Maturity is seen by --

ENDEAVOURING to keep the unity of the Spirit. v3

SPEAKING the truth in love. v16, 25, 29, 31

FORBEARING one another in love. .V2

FORGIVING one another. V32

Sometimes people say that it is hard to forgive a brother but it is harder on us not too!

Forgiveness means that we consciously choose to treat them, as they need to be treated not as they deserve to be treated. In the same manner, that God for Christ's sake treats us.

Is it worth it to lose our joy, peace, happiness and power with God to hold a grudge?

See Matt 18:21-25

Graces of the Spirit

RESULT WILL BE HARMONY & SYNERGY

V15 May grow up into Him in all things. Body fit together.

Synergy means that more can be accomplished unitedly than each can accomplish on their own. Psm 133

Glory to the Son

NOTES: _____

