

Sins of Good People in the Church

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What would Christianity be like had the Lord not established the church for His people to be added to?
1. Have you ever thought about that?
 2. What would Christianity be like . . .
 - a. Without togetherness?
 - b. Without fellowship?
 - c. Without edification?
 - d. Without assembling?
 - e. Without worship?
 - f. Without a local identification with others?
 - g. Without teaching and leadership?
 - h. Etc.
- B. There are three kinds of people in the fellowship of the church.
1. Good people as God counts goodness . . . people who have obeyed the gospel and are faithful.
 - a. People whom the Lord has added to His church. **Acts 2:47** - . . . And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
 - b. People who have believe Christ and who have believed in Christ and had complied with Christ's command to be baptized. **Mark 16:16** - He who believes and is baptized will be saved
 - c. People who have accepted Christ's offer of salvation and have obeyed Him. Hebrews 5:9 - Having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.
 2. Those who are morally good . . . but are not faithful to the Lord.
 - a. People who should be spiritual . . . but are not. **1 Corinthians 3:1** - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.
 - b. People like in the congregation at Laodicea in **Revelation 3:14-19** - And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:
 - 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.
 - 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked --

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

3. Those who have backslidden, apostatized, and have become unfaithful to Christ as described in 2 Peter 2:20-22 - For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

SOME SINS COMMITTED BY GOOD PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

A. Omission of duty is committed by many good people in the church . . . and they should repent of it.

1. **James 4:17** - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.
 - a. Some may feel this applies to others but not to them.
 - b. Some rationalize an acceptable rationalization or justification to themselves for not doing what they know they should be doing.
 - c. Some feel that surely the Lord will understand and excuse them.
 - d. Some just do not want to do their duty . . . and will not do their duty.
2. We see such an example of this principle in the a part of the Song of Deborah. **Judges 5:23** - 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly, Because they did not come to the help of the LORD, To the help of the LORD against the mighty.'
3. Matthew 25:31-46 denotes six specific categories of omission by some.
 - a. Hungry . . . but gave them no food.
 - b. Thirsty . . . but gave them no drink.
 - c. A stranger . . . but did not show hospitality.
 - d. Naked . . . but did not provide clothing.
 - e. Sick . . . but did not try to help.

f. In Prison . . . but did not visit and show concern.

2. Leaving one's first love (Christ) is committed by many good people in the church . . . and they should repent of it.

1. We should be loving Christ more . . . not less.

2. This became a problem in Ephesus. **Revelation 2:4-5** - Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.

a. When Christ has something against us, it is serious.

b. When Christ has something against us, we need to make a change.

c. When Christ has something against us, we need to repent.

3. Some newly married couples begin to lose the love they thought they felt. Nothing good comes when one stops loving one's spouse. That love:

a. Should grow . . . not weaken.

b. Should increase . . . not diminish.

c. Should blossom . . . not wilt.

d. Should move forward . . . not backward.

e. Should be worked at . . . not neglected.

f. Should intensify . . . not lessen.

g. Should be new each day . . . not taken for granted.

3. Lukewarmness characterizes some good people in the church . . . and they should repent of it

1. We have already read what Jesus said to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-19.

a. They had lost their zeal and enthusiasm.

b. It had been there . . . then it was gone.

d. They had been stronger . . . but they weakened to the state of lukewarmness.

2. Striving to be faithful will prevent one from becoming lukewarm.

4. Some good people in the church are guilty of violating the Golden Rule as given by Jesus in **Matthew 7:12** - Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

a. They want to be treated kindly . . . but treat others unkindly.

b. They want people to be honest with them . . . but they are dishonest with others.

c. They want others to be truthful with them . . . but they are not truthful with others.

d. They don't want others to talk behind their backs . . . but they talk behind other peoples' backs.

5. Some good people in the church have only surface religion.
- a. The principle is laid down in the parable of the sower and the soil. **Luke 8:13** - Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
 - b. In time they are sure to become unfaithful to Christ. **Hebrews 3:12** - Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God
6. Some good people in the church are become choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of this life, etc.
- a. **Luke 8:14** - Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
 - b. **Mark 4:18-19** - Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
 - c. Examples:
 1. Some are more faithful when they were single than after they are married.
 2. Some are more faithful before they went to college than they are after they graduate.
 3. Some were more faithful before they take a specific job than they are after they accept it.
 4. Some are more faithful before the job promotion than after it.
 5. Some were more faithful before they moved than they are in their new community.

THERE ARE MANY SINS COMMITTED BY GOOD PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

- A. Some good people in the church compromise and disobey certain truths in order to please their relatives.
1. **Matthew 10:35-38** - For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';
 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'
 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.
 And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

2. **Luke 12:51-53** - Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.

52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.

53 Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

3. **Jude 3** - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

B. Some good people in the church are contentious and quarrelsome in the church, home, workplace, etc.

1. **2 Timothy 2:24-26** - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

2. **2 Corinthians 10:1** - Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ -- who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

C. Some good people in the church are guilty of the sin of covetousness.

1. Generally the object of their covetousness is money.

- a. They study money.

- b. They crave money.

- c. To get more money, they will neglect their family, their church, and their soul.

2. In Colossians 3:5 Paul says to put covetousness to death in your body.

3. In **Ephesians 5:5**, Paul tells us than no covetous person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

4. Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

4. In **Acts 20:35** Paul quotes Jesus as having said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The covetous person's philosophy would say, "It is more blessed to keep and to get more."

D. Some good people in the church are discourteous and manifest an ugly spirit toward others.

1. They are friendly to some and snub others.
2. Example of preacher in Chattanooga. Friendly to the money people and the U.S. Congresswoman.
3. **1 Peter 3:8** - . . . Be courteous.

E. Some good people in the church are guilty of envy.

1. They dislike someone who is better off than they are and who has more than they have.
2. They dislike someone who drives a better car than they do.
3. They dislike someone who has a better job or makes more money than they do.
4. They dislike others who are being honored
5. Example: The elder son in the story of the prodigal son. Luke 15:11-31

F. Some good people are guilty of the sin of loving the pre-eminence . . . craving places of high honor, regardless of their fitness for such.

1. They want to sit in the chief seats. They are well described in Matthew 23:1-9
2. **3 John 9-10** - I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.
 10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

G. Some good people are guilty of the sin of burying their talents. Matthew 25:14-30

1. They will use their talents in the workplace but not in the church place.
2. They will use their talents to earn money but not to win souls.
3. They will use their talents to advance themselves but not Christ.

H. Some good people in the church sin in failing to bridle the tongue and control the temper.

1. **James 1:26** - If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.
2. **Proverbs 15:1** - A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
3. **Colossians 3:8-9** - But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

I. Some good people in the church are too critical of other people.

1. In Mark 14:1-6, the woman who anointed the head of Jesus was criticized by others present there in that Bethany house. What they criticized, Jesus called a good work.
2. **Matthew 7:1-3** - Judge not, that you be not judged.
 - 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.
 - 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

CONCLUSION:

- A. These sins were present in the 1st century church, and they are present in the Lord's church today. Do not let them be a part of your life.
 1. Do not leave undone that which should be done.
 2. Do not leave your first love Christ.
 3. Do not become lukewarm.
 4. Do not violate the Golden Rule
 5. Do not let the cares of this life choke out you faithfulness.
 6. Do not compromise truth in order to please your family.
 7. Do not be contentious and quarrelsome at home, church, or anywhere else.
 8. Do not be covetous.
 9. Do not be discourteous to others. Snub no one!
 10. Do not envy others.
 11. Do not seek pre-eminence among brethren in the church.
 12. Do not bury your talents, but rather use them to the glory of God.
 13. Do bridle your tongue and control your temper.
 14. Do not be too critical of other people.
- B. Failure to repent of these things will cause one to be condemned eternally.
- C. **Hebrews 10:26-27** - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
 - 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.
- D. **God's Plan For man's Salvation**