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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD THE VISION

BELIEVERS IN JESUS—TO FOLLOW
CHRIST IS TO WALK IN HIS WAY—
TO ABIDE IN CHRIST IS TO BE
CONSECRATED TO HIS PURPOSE
FOR OUR LIVES

The Lord is above all things. His ways are right. We are called, as Christians and as His Holy Church, to place the Lord above all things in our hearts and lives, and serve Him only. We are to do all our things in love, and walk in righteousness, holiness, and godliness. Some things are of God, and some things are not, but we are to follow His way, and do the things that please Him.

We are all called to abide in His will.

Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent,
and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right,
and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall
fall therein. —Hosea 14:9 KJV

To see the truth and know God's ways we need to humble ourselves before Him in the fear of the Lord. If we desire to know the things of God, and His wisdom, we need to come to Him with a contrite heart and a broken spirit. For pride blinds the mind and hardens the heart. Only one with a humble mind and a lowly heart can see. When we exalt the Lord in reverence, and when we bow down before Him in worship, we shall apprehend the things of God. Wisdom is found in humility, and truth is seen by the lowly. Hope comes to a broken spirit. A heart of compassion is from the Lord. And a servant is one who is surrendered to Christ's Lordship, and His will.

Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart
from evil is understanding. —Job 28:28 KJV

Let us walk in the fear of the Lord, and do what is right before Him. Let us fully give Jesus our hearts, abandon our lives, and follow His way in surrender to His purpose for our lives. May we die to ourselves and remain continually broken before our Lord, in humility seeking the things of God; that we would be able to wisely and with understanding carry out that to which we are called, and be not turned aside to any cause but Christ.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into
the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it

bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. If any one serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if any one serves Me, the Father will honor him. —John 12:24-26 NASV

May our works be the evidence of our love for our Lord, that the Father may look down upon us and honor us with His favor. May we work for that which is eternal, keeping our eyes on Jesus, being committed to the path He has called us to, and walk that road to glory.

Even everyone that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory... —Isaiah 43:7 KJV

We were created to glorify God, and to have fellowship with Him— all mankind was. The end of all our works is to glorify God. Whether we share the gospel, feed the poor, or work to support our families, we are to do so to glorify God. We are to glorify God, and God alone.

Can we glorify God and man? Can we glorify the Lord Most High and some other god as well? Will God be glorified if we work in the flesh for some worldly endeavor outside the will of God? No!

It is much preferable to fail at what we may set ourselves to, than to bring glory to any but the one true God. All of our things must be done according to Scripture, within the will of God, and by the leading of the Spirit of the Lord. The outcome is up to God, not man. The end does not justify the means to that end! If the work is of the Lord, then the outcome must be left in His hands. Whatever desires or intentions we may have must be tempered by the ensample of Jesus, the word of God, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

—John 14:20 NASV

In Jesus Christ, and through your own personal intimate relationship with Jesus Christ is the one and only way to have fellowship with God. We who are the chosen of the Lord are one with God, united in Christ by His Spirit. Every other way is a lie, and shall not bring you into fellowship with God. You can not enter into heaven unless you are born of the living water of God and the Holy Spirit of the Lord. Romans 3:5.

Religion is man's way to justify one's self with God— Christ Jesus is God's way to reconcile himself with man. True Christianity is not a religion but a life in Christ Jesus through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. Some hold to the facade of Christianity while they deny the Lord their heart and life. They are liars, and hypocrites, and have not the truth within them. These shall have no place in God's Kingdom.

Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

—Revelation 22:12 NASV

Can we so easily disregard the souls of those that are perishing, or turn away from those in need? Shall we, because of our lack of love become blind to the despair of others? Have we in the poverty of our compassion hardened our hearts to their cries? Will we awaken from our sleep in time to see the truth of Christ's way, and recover ourselves from our own errant ways, that we may escape His judgment?

When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth? —Luke 18:8 KJV

Man's heart is already growing cold, you can see it every day. You look into the eyes of the lost, and see the death. They unveil themselves by their lies. You see the prophecies being fulfilled before your eyes. How is it then that some of you can not read the signs of the times?

Now is the season. The end of days anon.

The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

—Matthew 13:41-43 KJV

Let us prepare ourselves therefore, and hope in the coming of the Lord. For the time is at hand, and the end of all things is near. The revelation of Jesus Christ will soon be upon us. Now is the time for all of us as Christians to lay down our lives for our Lord. To give ourselves for His gospel, and unto His will.

Blessed is the one whom the Lord shall find doing His will, working in the fields of the Lord.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles and oracles of God... —Hebrews 5:12 KJV

Have we come so far, and do not see the way of Christ? Are we so learned, and still do not understand the things of God, and what He has called us to?

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. —II Corinthians 5:18 NASV

We as the Church are to work to reconcile the lost to God. Any thing that gets in the way of that, is not of God! The Lord does not work at cross purposes, and we are not to do anything to hinder that which He has called us to. We are to work in harmony with

the Holy Spirit, and one with another. Banded together in purpose, with one aim. To fulfill the will of God.

Let us do all of our things in love therefore, and be a light unto the way of Christ Jesus our Lord.

As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach
the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

—Romans 10:15 KJV

We are called to go out into all the world and preach the gospel of Christ. To reach out to our neighbor who is lost and in darkness. There are millions perishing without Christ. Still we stay at home and do nothing. Can that be of God?

Christians all over the earth are being persecuted and martyred today for their faith. Let us therefore pray for a heart for the lost, and to share the good news. Let us lay down our lives for our Lord, and freely shed our blood for the Kingdom of God. Christ was a man of sorrows. So, let us not turn away from the sorrows and the sufferings of our Lord.

Jesus began His ministry by reading the prophesy of Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

—Luke 4:18-19 KJV

All who are one in Christ are called to this same ministry. We who are truly Christians, the chosen of the Lord, have the same anointing. Whereby in the name of Christ Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit of God, we are set apart to the same tasks. As we are to be followers of Jesus, we are in like manner to be imitators of Him, and His ministry. To be of Christ is to be as He was on earth.

Hearken my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs to the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him? —James 2:5 KJV

The Lord has called His Church to be ministers to the poor, and those in need. We are to turn and help the impoverished masses, for within them is a great harvest. They are fertile ground for the Lord's seed.

There are rivers of tears that flow over the earth, and clouds of despair that encompass the world. Heaven weeps and mourns the suffering and the human carnage. God is pleading with us to go unto them.

Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy. —Psalms 82:3-4 NASV

How can we proclaim the Lord, and allow our neighbor to go hungry? How can we speak words of love, and not care for those in need?

There are many who walk the streets of our cities, and are forgotten by the church. Poor people are hungry, starving, and dying. There are numerous souls without anyone on this earth who loves them, or so much as cares about them. A great assemblage with manifold burdens that weigh them down. They cry out to us. Do we care? Where are the called of the Lord? Do you care?

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. —Matthew 6:19-21 KJV

Do you spend your time in carnal pleasures and idle pursuits while the world around you perishes? Do you spend your money on that which is needless, feeding your fleshly desires? Do you withhold your alms from the one you call your Lord? Will you let go of your life for the sake of Christ?

Repent of your idolatrous apathy, and your worldly lifestyle.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

—Matthew 6:24 KJV

When we give our heart to Jesus, and surrender ourselves to His Lordship of our life, we give up our right to all we have. To inherit eternal life is to give up our life here on earth. To be Christ's disciple is to give Him all you possess. Our life, our time, our plans, our money, and all that we own. Everything!

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple. —Luke 14:33 KJV

Remember the words to the old song? "All to Jesus I surrender. All to Him I freely Give."

Sell that which is useless, which weighs you down, that you may be free from your idols and your fleshly bonds. Invest not in the insecurity of riches, but believe in God's promise to provide for you, and trust in Him. Give to the poor, and lend yourself freely to the needs of others.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. —Psalm 41:1 KJV

Open your heart to the helpless and give to the poor. Invest in the kingdom of God, and apply your efforts to the benefit of others. Give, and it shall be given to you. Luke 6:38. Give to the poor and follow Jesus, and you shall have treasure in heaven. Matthew 19:21.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. —Psalm 34:18 KJV

God looks to the humble and the lowly, those broken and poor in spirit. No one comes to know the Lord in pride. He has favor upon the poor and troubled. He cares for those who hunger and are in need. For it is when one is broken and in need that they turn to the Lord for help.

Christ is reaching out to the sinner, and the needy. He hears the crying of the broken hearted, and those in despair. Should we not have the same heart and mind as our Lord? Shall we not do the same things? Will we say that we love the Lord, and not love our neighbor? How can we glorify Him if we do not do His will? Can we dwell in God and not have His love in our hearts?

I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

—John 5:42 KJV

You who speak of life but deceive yourselves, sowing seeds unto death. Do you not know that you will reap what you sow? You who do not care about others, and ignore those in need, even those of the household of the faith. Do you not fear God? You who turn from the poor, and those lost in darkness, hardening your heart to their cry. Do you hold in contempt the commandments of the Lord?

You may believe you are right, but you know you are wrong.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine;
and we shall be saved. —Psalm 80:19 KJV

Fall down before the Lord God, and tremble. Fear the Lord, and repent of your ways, for the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord will soon be upon you.

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in
the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

—I John 4:17 KJV

Brothers and sisters, do not only think on what you can gain from the Lord, but what you can give as well. It is not wrong to seek His blessings. On the contrary, He wants to bless you abundantly. It is His joy to bless you when you seek Him with a pure heart. So seek the Lord because of your love for Him, and not just for your needs. Give without thought to receive.

The Lord wants you to give Him your heart, and your life. Live in holiness and righteousness. Be as He is. Live the life of Jesus Christ. Become a servant of God.

It's like two sides of the same coin. On one side is a likeness of the one it honors, on the other, an image that represents Him. On the one hand we are to be Christ like, and on the other, we are to represent Him on earth. They go together, and cannot be separated. To honor the Lord is to serve Him. One cannot be like Christ, and not serve the Father.

Those who are the chosen of the Lord, are His Church, and Christ's representatives here on earth.

Follow Me. —John 21:19 KJV

I Pray the love and compassion of God will fill your heart to overflowing, that you step out and find the riches of joy and happiness in service to the Lord. For therein, the words of your lips shall be established by your good works, and you will be a witness to

the love of God.

You shall be more blessed when you give, than the one who receives that which you have given.

If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

—John 13:17 NASV

Let us do the things of God, and hold to the narrow way. May we as Christ's body have the clarity of purpose that Christ also has, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into all righteousness. Jesus gave us the ensample that we, as Christians and as His Church, are to emulate. His desire for us as a body of believers is to do as He did. He wants us to have compassion for all, and illuminate the path to God. Love those that are without, and draw all peoples of the world to Him.

How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.

—Psalms 119:1-3 NASV

To hold to the way of Christ is not only a matter of what we do, but what we do not do. The mark of Christ's ministry was in what He did, and how He did it; as well as what He did not do, and why.

Awaken to what was committed to His way, and what was omitted.

Jesus devoted Himself to the work of God, and the building of His Church. He walked along the straight and narrow way. He worked at accomplishing God's will.

Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

—Matthew 7:14 KJV

As Christians, and as the Church of Christ, we must with all clarity be a true reflection of the way of Jesus. We can not cast a shadow over the Gospel. We must not obscure the light of Christ. The world should behold the Church, and the Christian, as if they were looking at Jesus Christ Himself.

The focus of the world has to be on Jesus Christ the Messiah, and His Gospel!

To use the Church as an organism or an organization for a political or social cause is not only a corruption of the Church's purpose, but also diverts the assembly from God's will, and the world from seeing the way of Christ.

It is crucial for the Church to understand these things. We as His body are called to commit ourselves to His way, and omit from our teaching and works that which is not of God, that which is not compatible with the purpose to which we are called. It is essential we know these things so that we can be conformed to His will for us.

We are called to a singular purpose, that is, the work and ministry of Christ! Called to be imitators of Jesus and do the work of our Lord. We must not compromise our calling!

Each and every one of us must seek God and search our the scriptures for what they

say, and what they do not say as well, without prejudice of mind or corrupted hearts. We need to do so without an eagerness to portray or view what is written in order to support an agenda, or to justify a cause.

We must, as Christians and as a Church as a whole, carefully and prayerfully perceive the truth of what Jesus did, and what He refrained from doing.

We are bound to do those things He Himself did, and keep ourselves from that which He abstained from.

We as Christians are to be followers of Christ, to do as He did!

Our duty is to clearly comprehend what Jesus did, and what He did not do, and why—to go so far and no further. Hold to the work and the ministry of Christ, for anything beyond that shall not further our Lord's will or His Kingdom.

We as Christians and as His Church need to have the clarity of purpose and purity of desire that our Lord also has, and follow His ensample that He gave to us while on earth.

You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.

—Matthew 4:10 NASV

We are to worship and praise our Lord, and God, and Him alone! We are to reserve our reverence for God, and devote ourselves to His purposes. To live according to His will, and do that which He is calling us to.

Many have forgotten the worship of the Lord, and to lift up His name in praise. Many have lost the fear of the Lord.

Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

—II Corinthians 6:17 KJV

While there is some disagreement about what this scripture means, we can reasonably assume some basic truth.

We as the Church and as Christians are not to be joined together with those who are not believers, or those of the world; and we are to abstain from all forms of idolatry.

Now idolatry is the adoration, reverence, and devotion to anyone but God, or anything not of God. We are to exalt our Lord alone, and devote ourselves solely to Him, His purpose for us, and those things that are of God.

How long will you judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? —Psalm 82:2 KJV

How dire the consequences when we join with those of the world, and be conformed to their ways for the sake of a cause. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness. What communion has light with darkness? II Corinthians 6:14. What cause is there that sets us free to disobey the Lord? What shall our witness as the Church be if we are seen to be the same as the world? Has not the light of Christ been clouded? Has the Christ in us become overshadowed by the darkness that now enfolds the world?

This is abhorrent to God. We as the Church are to be set apart by ourselves alone. We as Christians are not to join with any one that is not of Christ for any cause! We as Christ's Church are not to join together with any other entity, or be conformed to their ways for any reason. It goes against all that the Lord has called His Church to. Jesus did

not teach us political or social theory, or entreat us to become active in such causes, but rather to be about the work of God.

Let us not muddy the waters, or hinder our message. May we no longer look with the eyes of the dead. Let us as the Bride of Christ be set apart that all may see the Lord in us, and in our ways. May we give no one cause to reproach us for our worldly ways, but lay open to all the opportunity to come to the Lord.

May we as the Church be seen as an image of Christ. The image of love!

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world.

—1 John 2:15 NASV

There is only one institute that is of the Lord, His Church! There is only one Church, one Body, and family of God—The Bride of Christ! There is only one hope, one calling, and one way.

As Christ's Church, we are not called to change the world, but to lead the lost out of it, to Christ. We are to be a lighthouse unto the world, so they which are in it may find the way to Christ.

Although we must for a time reside in this world, we are not to take part in its ways, or be conformed to it. We cannot join together with those of the world and accomplish the things to which we are called by God to do.

All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

—1 Corinthians 10:23-24 NASV

To the pure of heart, all things are pure. Titus 1:15. Each of us are to be led by God, and walk according to our own conviction.

However, let us first consider the benefit of others. May we be continually in prayer for God's wisdom to show us her way when we deal with those outside the fellowship of Christ and His Church.

May we, each and every one of us, be fully persuaded that what we do is within the will of our Lord. Let us as individual Christians, and as congregations, hold ourselves accountable to the word of God, and conduct ourselves in the wisdom of the Spirit. Be free to do whatever you believe is within the will of the Lord, according to your own conviction and the word of God. For we do have great freedom in the Lord. However, I entreat you, prayerfully enter into all things and walk in the leading of the Holy Spirit of God, and the fear of the Lord.

God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

—Luke 16:15 KJV

What hypocrisy and deception to promote morality to those who are not redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, or to preach righteousness and religion to those who are not born of God. This is not of God! No one shall be saved by their works. Christ

removed the burden of religion and works from us. Shall we lay this burden upon others? It is through Him alone we have been justified. Shall we be as the hypocrites who justify themselves with their religion? Righteousness, holiness, and godliness are found in Christ, and endowed upon man by His Holy Spirit. Shall we put a desire for a moral world over the desires of the Lord, and the souls of man?

Let us deal wisely with those of the world, and not lay burdens upon them that we ourselves can not bear. Let us love our fellow man, and not thwart them. For the Lord does not wish that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance. II Peter 3:9. And we are to have this attitude in us as well. We are to reach out to the sinner in love, not condemn them for their sins. We are to lead them to repentance in Christ, that they may be renewed by the work of the Holy Spirit, which shall bring about righteousness, holiness, and Godliness.

We are not to strive to change them by a doctrine of morality, religious dogma, and the commandments of man. We are not to try to reform them, but allow them to be transformed by our Lord. For through the flesh is no one justified. Galatians 2:16.

If we fight our battles on the basis of the morality of man the only thing we will accomplish is to arouse a leviathan opposition to our precepts. On the other hand, we through the Spirit of God, shall bring forth fruit unto the Kingdom of the Lord Most High.

This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship me. Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men. —Matthew 15:8-9 NASV

Narrow is the road to heaven, and few see the way. Let us not cloud the truth, or turn aside from that to which we are called to do, so as to be a hindrance, a stumbling block, and an offense to the world. Rather, may we be an open door to the truth and the knowledge of God. May we purpose to shine forth the clarity of Christ's Gospel message, and allow the love and the Spirit of God to draw people of the world to Himself.

All righteousness, Godliness and holiness is a witness, praise, and glory to God. Morality is the glorification of man and the works of man.

Man's heart must change before the world will change. The Lord looks to one's heart. He wants a person's heart to be His so the Holy Spirit will be free to work to change that one. We who are one in Christ, the children of the Lord, are to follow the way of our Lord Jesus and work to turn the heart of man towards God.

The Lord looks to the individual, to his heart, and to his needs. He wishes to minister to him according to what is essential to God's purposes, and his requisite longings.

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. —I Peter 2:21 NASV

Let us not further any cause but Christ, His kingdom, and His Gospel. Let us testify of His life by being followers of Him, and lead the sinner by the hand into the knowledge of the truth, and in the love of God. May we be as Jesus, conformed to His

purpose according to the will of God. Do not compromise our witness by being embroiled in the affairs of this world.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. —II Timothy 2:4 KJV

Often we find ourselves absorbed into popular causes to the detriment of our purpose as the Church. So easily have we been misdirected by this wind or that one. So many times we fail to see the Lord's way, having been seduced into other things. How commonly do we neglect the eternal for the temporal!

Let us no longer be blind to the truth, or thwarted from our Lord's purpose for us. For our cause is not moral, or political. Our cause is Christ! We are not sent to make the world over, but to make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 28:19. Our commission is not to preach morality and the religion of works, but the Gospel of Christ, which leads to freedom from the bonds of such things. Whereby, the holiness, godliness, and righteousness of God will be made real in the lives of all those who have given their heart to Jesus.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. —Hebrews 12:14 KJV

We are to be at peace with the world, as much as it depends on us. Though for us to follow peace with all, we can not, we must not take sides. For us to be approachable ourselves, we must approach those of the world with love, acceptance, forbearance, and humility.

Behave in a godly manner, and do not be at odds with them over the affairs of the world, or judge and condemn them for their sins. We are to try to befriend them, not estrange them.

Remember the story of the adulteress woman. Jesus replied to the Pharisees

He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. —John 8:7 KJV

Christ did not condemn her, nor could anyone else.

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. —Luke 7:47 KJV

Those who have come to Christ from the world understand the world. They can empathize with those in it, and look beyond their failings. They love more, and tend to condemn less, for they have committed the same acts. Perhaps they can more fully comprehend the forgiveness of Christ, which brings about a greater love for God. When one is so lowly, the cleansing and renewing work of the Holy Spirit in one's heart and soul is much more evident to one's eyes. Whereby we know that it is through the righteousness, godliness, and holiness of the Lord that any good thing may be found within us. This is true of any of us. For all are unworthy. Any righteousness or good thing that is within you as a Christian is from God. Religion and the morality of man is

nothing more than dead works.

Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

—Matthew 10:16 KJV

In some things, to be righteous is a matter of the way we do them. In other things, there is no way to be righteous. For there are some things we are called to, and some things we are not to do. Especially as Christ's Church!

However, it is the will of heaven that we behave as Christ in all we do. We are to walk in holiness according to God's Holy word, and live in the Spirit, so as to be conformed to our Lord by His Spirit. For us to accomplish His purpose, we must be led by God's Spirit, and allow Him to work in us, and through us. For therein is God glorified, and His will fulfilled.

Therefore, be led by God through His Spirit in all that you do. Live in accordance to all that is in God's word. Prayerfully talk and act in love, as Christ also did. Wait on the Lord and pray. Allow the Lord to fulfill His will in the nations and the Church, and raise up who He wishes. All things are in His hands. Trust in God. Proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and rely on the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of man. For in doing our things in God's way we shall be in God's will.

Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called. Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to be free, rather do that. Brethren, let each man remain with God in that condition in which he was called. —I Corinthians 7:20-21,24 NASV

What an empty lie the cry of "freedom to the people." What the people need is the freedom that is to be found in Christ. The truth of the word, and the Gospel of Christ is what sets men free. For Christ is the living Word, and freedom to all those who believe.

Let us not become entangled in political movements to uplift ourselves or anyone else. This is not of God! For our Lord did not seek to exalt or uplift Himself. Just the opposite. He humbled Himself as a servant, and was exalted by His Father. Jesus did not join with the Zealots to bring freedom to His people. So let us put on the humility of Christ, and lead others to do the same. Let us not seek to uplift ourselves in pride, or counsel others to do so, but walk in fellowship with the sufferings of Christ.

When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. —Proverbs 16:7 NASV

Although we are not called to become immersed in the eternal sea, or the movements of man; we should stand up for the truth, speak out for what is right, and for the things of God. However, let us humbly proclaim the oracles of the Lord in love, being led by His Spirit in all things, and at all times. And let us do so with the gentleness of Jesus. For what shall it profit the Lord, or man, if our ways are outside the will of God?

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world.

—John 18:36 KJV

How fruitless the labors of those who seek to establish the kingdom of the Lord in this world. Their work will come to nothing. God will not be glorified.

All those who are in Christ, are in His kingdom. Even now we are citizens of heaven. We are no longer of this world. So let us labor for God's eternal kingdom. For Christ did not come to establish His kingdom here on earth, and we are not called to do so either! May we as His Church be a true reflection of His purpose and work while on earth. Let us not stray from the knowledge of the truth, and the way of Christ, but be a light unto His gospel.

Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. —Romans 12:2 KJV

Our healing, our transformation, our renewal, is in Christ through His Spirit, and the word of God. We who are in Christ are being made over into His image. God works in us to conform us to Himself for His purpose. It is His work, rest in Him. He is the Great Physician, trust in Him. He is our counselor, listen to Him. Learn God's word, hold to the truth, and trust in His promises for you. Pray, and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you. Surrender to his work in you. Seek the Lord for all your needs, and He will bless you with all that is necessary for you to have a joyous, abundant, and victorious life in Him.

Now, this is not to say we are not free to seek medical help, good teaching, or the wise counsel of the brethren. God has given knowledge to man, and we can benefit from it. He works through them to accomplish His work in us. However, we are to seek the Lord first, and must continually listen to Him, so we are not deceived. We must believe and have faith in our Lord. It is essential that each and every one of us know what the Scriptures say, and listen to the Spirit, so we will know the truth and see the way of Jesus. Our Lord wants us to cultivate our relationship with Him directly through prayer, and meditation on His word. We are to rely on Him, for He has begun a good work in us, and is faithful to complete it.

Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

—Romans 16:17 NASV

There is a point, when someone departs from sound doctrine, that we are to no longer have anything to do with them. We are to separate ourselves from those who no longer abide in the truth. Those who openly proclaim that which is contrary to God's word. We are not to tolerate them, or fellowship with them. We are to leave them to their own devices, for they are those who are of their father the Devil.

When He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice. And a stranger

will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. —John 10:4-5 KJV

To be bound together with the cults, or to enjoin others to do so is an abomination to the Lord. I speak of those who claim to be of Christ but deny His deity, or do not hold to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of Truth. Turn from your errant ways, you who are entwined with such as these, and repent from your dealings with them.

Separate yourselves from these apostates!

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind...

—Matthew 15:14 KJV

We who are the chosen of God, the children of light, the Bride of Christ, we see the apostasy and heresy within the so called Christian community. Do not join together with such as these. They are deceived, and know not the truth. They are not of God. Be forewarned, let all of our dealings with them be led by the Holy Spirit, and with all wisdom and spiritual discernment.

May each Christian, and each congregation, assembly, or organization who is of the Lord, have fellowship with those of the Lord.

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the world are out of course.

—Psalm 82:5 KJV

While we all have slightly different beliefs, and or various opinions on Scripture, there are some things that are not to be tolerated within the Church. Such things as approving sex outside of a marriage between a man and a woman, worldly ideas not conforming to sound doctrine, humanism, mysticism and or new age philosophy and practices. Those things are from the spirit of the Antichrist, and of darkness. We are to have no association with such things, or those who approve of such things.

Be aware you do not incorporate worldly ideas and concepts into your beliefs, or tolerate them within your congregation. Be wary of philosophy and mysticism, especially you who are young in the Lord, or you who are not yet well grounded in the word of truth and the knowledge of God. For many have been deceived by these things. Do not accept the humanistic ideas of the world, or be persuaded to follow their ways. For many are lead astray from the way, and into following the ways of man. Do not listen to those whose words excite the flesh, evoke your passion, and flatter your pride. Do not follow in their ways!

The enemy loves to destroy the witness and work of the Church through his lies, and the fleshly desires of its people. Satan lives to deceive whosoever he can, through whatever he can use, whenever he can. His is a subtle craft. He attempts to seduce the believer using seemingly righteous, and or the most harmless of things. And he is very good at what he does.

...Shepherd My sheep —John 21:16 NASV

It is essential that the shepherds and elders within the Church know these things and watch for any thing not in keeping with God's Holy word, and the truth of the Spirit of the Lord. Watch over the Children of the Lord, and care for their needs. Lead them into

the truth and the love of God.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore,
and repent. —Revelation 3:19 KJV

Turn therefore from those things that are not of God. Take care to avoid that which is not in accord with sound doctrine, and separate yourselves from those who profess it. Turn to the word, and learn from the Holy Spirit, so that you will not be lead astray from the truth. Pray for the wisdom, knowledge, and discernment of God that is revealed to you by His Spirit, and let all you do or believe be fully supported by Scripture.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty
through God for the pulling down of strongholds; Casting
down imaginations, and everything that exalteth itself
against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity
every thought to the obedience of Christ.

—II Corinthians 10:3-5 KJV

Always remember that our battle is against spiritual strongholds of darkness. Our fight is with the Devil. We are called to come out of the world, not go to war with those in it. Rather, we are called to love them. Satan is our enemy, not man. Let us war with the weapons of God for His Kingdom, and not in the flesh for any worldly purpose. Let us be ready to pray, for all of our work is first spiritual. Let us come against the enemy, and bind him, so that our work will be effective.

It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer.

—Matthew 21:13 NASV

May the Church be a house of worship, praise, and prayer, so all of our works will be built upon the power of God. And let us walk in the Spirit of God, being conformed to Christ, so we will be able to accomplish the will of our Lord.

...Peace be with you. —John 20:19 ,26 NASV

Prepare yourselves, Bride of Christ, and keep yourselves pure. Arise and shine the radiance of Christ. Rejoice in praise, and be at peace children. Worship the Lord with all your heart and trust in God, for now is the season of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lay hold of the moment, for the day is nigh.

...Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The
grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

—Revelation 22:20-21 KJV

May we hear the clarion call and look to Christ, to the eternal, and to the will of our Lord.

May we serve our Lord with joy and gladness all the length of our days.

May we all be an image of Christ. The image of love.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26 KJV



The Messenger [BradleyAlan Eddy](#)