

## Have no fellowship with unfruitful works Volume 6 Chronicle 2017111201

Page 1 of 3

The church of God at Ephesus was founded by Paul about the close of his second missionary journey (Acts 18: 19-21). He paused on his way to Jerusalem and preached in the Jewish synagogue. Leaving Priscilla and Aquila to follow up the impression which he made, he went on. He returned on his third missionary journey (Acts 19: 1), spending about three years (Acts 20: 31). Preaching the gospel with success, threatening to effect revolution in the city and province (Acts 19: 17-20), stirring up the fears of trades profited by old superstitions to such extent commotion was aroused causing him to leave the city. Since that date he had not seen Ephesus, though he had met the elders of the church at Miletus when on his way to Jerusalem (Acts 20: 17).

Difficulties arose in the church. It was asked why the imperfections of Judaism and the errors of the Gentile religions existed so many ages before the Gospel was revealed? Was the Gospel an afterthought of God? The church, in which Jew and Gentile are made one, is creation of the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit, decreed of eternity, and destined for eternity. He shows the church was foreordained of God, that it has been redeemed, and that Jew and Gentile have been made one in Christ. The apostle enters upon a practical application, enforcing unity, love, newness of life, walking in the strength of the Lord, and in the armor of God. Paul cautions; have no fellowship with unfruitful works, but reprove them (Ephesians 5: 11 ASV).

He exhorts. Be imitators of God. Beloved children walk in love. Christ loved you, and gave Himself up for us; offering and a sacrifice to God. Fornication, all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be among you, as saints. Nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, or jesting, which are not befitting. Rather give thanks. No fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no man deceive you. Because of these things come the wrath of God upon sons of disobedience. Be not partakers

with them. Once darkness. You are now light. In the Lord, walk as children of light. Fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. Prove what is well-pleasing unto the Lord (Ephesians 5: 1-10 ASV portioned).

Jehovah saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6: 5 ASV). This is a serious charge! It should be easy to understand why Jehovah would command; you shall not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shall you speak in a cause to turn aside after a multitude to wrest justice (Exodus 23: 2 ASV). Ought this be enough for any Christian to realize they need to keep away from the crowd! If not the apostle puts it this way; abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good (Romans 12: 9 ASV). Abhor and cleave are strong, powerful words. They leave no doubt in your mind. There is no middle road in between right and wrong.

Modern attitudes adapt theology to our time, moral relativism. They advocate holding lists of cans and can not's are meaningless. These leaders speak to numbers in fellowship that are adrift from the moral standards of the historical church. So should I present a Christ who erased the law, or a Christ who upheld the law? The Christ I know equated purity of heart to the blessedness of seeing God. How can liberals cry no sexual relationship should be absolutely condemned by the church when God took census of Sodom and Gomorrah and could not find ten righteous persons, destroying that wicked and evil place. New styles and fashions of conduct will never change the gospel. A crowd and their popular attitude does not make it right.

Human experience tells you there is evil and wicked people. Join the gang that wants to raise a little hell, that goes for kicks, that wants to stir up a little excitement, and you are headed for trouble. You open yourself to an infection of pride, malice, revenge, bad passions, and rotten practices. Fall in line and you tumble into a strong current. It will

carry you downstream so fast it will panic your soul. If you fraternize you are a rule breaker. No reasoning that the end may justify the means will get God to change the rules. It is up to you to draw the line. Only an act of God will ever disengage you from it. He commands you not to move with the current. Fight your way upstream. Be different.

Man by nature is an imitator. The devil knows it and brings pressure to bear. We become so accustomed to it that our resistance fades. We conclude everybody is doing it, what possible harm can there be in it? It happened to Lot in Sodom. Sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked, that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds (II Peter 2: 7-8 ASV). The crowd wore Lot down.

Sinners will entice you. The crowd is a powerful lure. It exercises a hypnotic affect. You do not have to follow. God has a way to escape. Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stands in the way of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of scoffers: but his delight is in the law of Jehovah (Psalm 1: 1-2 ASV). God says there is a blessing striving for His approval. I believe it. My God is never in any man's debt.

There are two societies on earth. You must belong to one or the other. They are in direct opposition. They have nothing in common. In one there is honor, allegiance, and profit. In the other is guilt, betrayal, and punishment. You must be judged in eternity. Did you give comfort and aid to the enemy? That is the way God looks at it. His rules have not changed. He that is not with Christ is against Him. You can't have it both ways. Look ahead! Think about it. Where will you end up with the company you keep? What will happen to you? You are not an animal bound by nature. Sin does not have to have dominion over you. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3: 6 ASV).

Look both ways and choose to live your divine destiny!