

ROMANS 66 – 16:17-18

Marking and Avoiding

1. 16:17-18

- a. *"I beseech you"* – which sounds like 1 Cor 1:10, Eph 4:1, and Phil 4:2
- b. *"mark them which cause divisions"* – which is wrongly read as those who separate
- c. Modern Christianity has long made its goal big tent, relationship, family, love
 - i. The largest heresy/hurt you can do in a relationship is to break up.
 - ii. If you separate from wrong doctrine you preserve right doctrine.
- d. The function of the church is to preserve and preach right doctrine – 1 Tim 3:15
- e. The tent we are under is the Lord's gospel of grace to Paul – 1 Cor 4:16,11:1,15:1-3
 - i. *"contrary to the doctrine"* – marking and avoiding is about doctrine
- f. It is not loving to acquiesce to error, and be silent about wrong doctrine 1Cor 13:6
- g. Relationship/unity is never at the expense of God's word rightly divided.
- h. *"avoid them"* – this is civil, peaceful, loving, not violent or with strife.

2. Paul's Doctrine of Separation

- a. An oft neglected Pauline teaching: the doctrine of separation – 2 Tim 2:14-16
- b. Paul speaks more about separation than heaven/hell/baptism/Lord's supper
- c. Why separation is needed? Some do not serve the Lord – Rom 16:18, Phil 3:17-19
- d. Paul says some gospel preachers should be accursed – Gal 1:8-9; 2 Cor 11:4, 11:13
- e. Paul commands them to separate in 2 Thess 3:6-14
- f. There is supposed to be a withdrawal from the growth experts – 1 Tim 6:3-6
- g. Paul wishes some were cut off for the wrong doctrine they taught – Gal 5:7-12
- h. Wrong doctrine subverts the hearers, it must be stopped – Titus 1:9-11, 3:9

3. Marking and Avoiding

- a. This is uncomfortable, because it means you must be sure enough to take a stand
- b. The division maker teaches wrong doctrine, but the marker gets hated – Gal 4:16
- c. The offense is to the gospel, the division is from the truth – 1 Tim 1:19-20
- d. Name them and show the error in their doctrine - 2 Tim 2:17-18
- e. You should not be able to fellowship with everyone, not all have faith 2 Cor 6:14
- f. If you do not mark and avoid, the hearts of the simple will be deceived.
- g. Stand and be counted! Be fully persuaded! Be ye separate!

Reasons to Separate from Wrong Doctrine

Paul's teaching to separate, withdraw, and avoid those who teach wrong doctrine is always for the sake of the truth, and never for personal reasons.

1. To keep the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace - Eph 4:3-6
2. Profane and vain babblings lead to more ungodliness – 2 Tim 2:16
3. Unsound words are cancerous to faith – 2 Tim 2:17
4. Errors can overthrow the faith of others – 2 Tim 2:18
5. It is honorable – 2 Tim 2:21
6. It is pure – 2 Tim 2:22
7. Perverting the gospel does not please the Lord – Gal 1:7-10
8. It corrupts good manners to acquiesce to wrong doctrine – 1 Cor 15:33
9. It is safe – Phil 3:1-2
10. It is a good ensample – Phil 3:17
11. Ministers of the cross cannot walk (minister) with enemies of the cross – Phil 3:18
12. Not all men have faith – 2 Thess 3:2
13. It approves us as ministers of God – 2 Cor 6:6-7
14. We have no part with them that do not believe the truth – 2 Cor 6:15
15. There is no communion with light and darkness – 2 Cor 6:14
16. When we separate God receives us – 2 Cor 6:17
17. It keeps us from the error of thinking gain is godliness – 1 Tim 6:5
18. It maintains order – 2 Thess 3:6-7
19. To admonish a brother – 2 Thess 3:14
20. It is a shame to speak of unfruitful works – Eph 5:11-12
21. It manifests the wrong, making it known – Eph 5:13
22. To maintain soundness in the faith – Titus 1:13
23. To prevent brothers/sisters from turning from the truth – Titus 1:14
24. It redeems the time, you can get more work done without infighting – Eph 5:16
25. A failure to separate will lead to unprofitable and vain wastes of time – Titus 3:9
26. It removes heresy from the group – Titus 3:10
27. It proves what is acceptable unto the Lord – Eph 5:7-10
28. It protects the conscience of the weaker brother – 1 Cor 8:12
29. It preserves the pillar and the ground of the truth – 1 Tim 3:15
30. It purges out the leaven – 1 Cor 5:7
31. It is good judgment – 1 Cor 5:11-12
32. To maintain godliness and the power of God – 2 Tim 3:5