

Becoming a Vessel unto Honour

The Apostle Paul is instructing Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:19-26

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

This is the key to being part of the Body of Christ. You must Depart from iniquity.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

Paul is letting Timothy know that even in a great house there are different types of vessels. **He is speaking of people by using the example of vessels.** Then he states some are to honor and some to dishonor. Remember first though, he said “Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” This is very much like the parable of the tares and the wheat that Jesus taught. “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, **Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?** He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, **Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.” (Mt 13:24-30)

So after letting Timothy know that even in a great house there are different types of vessels and some to honor, which would be the wheat, and some to dishonor, which would be the tares, he then continues and gives us instruction of how to be a vessel unto honor.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

The key was that anyone that names the name of Christ is supposed to depart from iniquity. But Paul also lets Timothy know that not everyone will. That is why some are to honor, which are the wheat, and why some are to dishonor, which are the tares. If you want to be a vessel of honor, purge yourself from iniquity and false brethren. Pray for those who are tares but don't keep company with them. “Be not deceived: **evil communications corrupt good manners.**” (1 Cor 15:33) “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what

fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Cor 6:14)

The Apostle Paul continues teaching Timothy what he should do as a teacher.

23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

It is crucial to note that many people oppose themselves. And those that do, the devil can take them captive at his will. The reason why, is because they are not vessels unto honor, because they have not purged themselves from iniquity, and thus begin to oppose themselves when instruction is given because they have not a love of the truth.

The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to **"Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."** **That is what we as followers of Jesus Christ should be pursuing.** The Apostle Peter gives us instructions to follow as well.

2 Peter 1:3-12

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Again you see that **you must depart from iniquity if you name the name of Jesus Christ. Otherwise you are not going to be a vessel of honor, the wheat, but rather a vessel unto dishonor, the tares. The choice is yours. Obedience or disobedience. To love Jesus Christ and keep his commandments or in this case to stay in the Church and sow discord among the people subverting the hearers as you try to sway them to your way of thinking of whom the wheat should avoid as you are part of the congregation of the dead. "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead."** (Pro 21:16)

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Giving all diligence to make your calling and election sure! Striving to enter in at the strait gate! Pressing into the kingdom of God! Add to your faith in Jesus Christ and the gospel message of hope, and what allowed you to be born again of which was also given by the Apostle Peter, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) Add to your faith virtue. Live upright with moral excellence! A "vessel unto honour,

sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.” **Adding to this virtue knowledge.** The knowledge of the Word of God. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15) “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**” (2 Tim 3:16-17) “Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. **For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day,** even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?” (Pro 22:17-21) “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: **Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.**” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Add to your knowledge self control! Keep yourself in the will of God! “**For this is the will of God,** even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; **Not in the lust of concupiscence,** even as the Gentiles which know not God: **That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter:** because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. **For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.** He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.” (1 Thess 4:3-8) Add to your self control or temperance patience. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, **without which no man shall see the Lord:**” (Heb 12:14) “**My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this,** that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:2-4) Add to your patience godliness! The collective whole of the gospel teaching. “**If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness:** from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Tim 6:3-6)

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Add to godliness brotherly kindness! “**For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” (Rm 12:4-5) “**For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not**

of the body? **And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.**" (1 Cor 12:12-21) "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." (Eph 5:30) **Add to brotherly kindness charity! "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."** (Rm 13:10) "Let love be without dissimulation. **Abhor that which is evil;** cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" (Rm 12:9-10) "**Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.**" (Gal 6:1-2) "**And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**" (1 Peter 4:8)

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore purge yourself from iniquity and follow after the instructions that you have received and you will not "be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 **Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 **Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.**

I hope this blesses everyone to the understanding that if you name the name of Christ, then depart from iniquity by purging yourself from sin, by applying the Word of God. Otherwise you will become a vessel unto dishonor and a tare among the wheat.