

The Bishop's Corner

Be a Light in this dark World

Praise the Lord Saints,

“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).

The gospel does not need to change but something in our attitude needs to change. We need to be careful how we judge people because it reveals ourselves. The scribes and Pharisees (church folks) brought a woman to Jesus caught in adultery to condemn her to death. Jesus told them to cast the first stone if they were without sin. He did not condemn her but forgave her and told her to go and sin no more (John 8:3-11). When Jesus preached, He did not segregate people; He just preached the gospel and let the Holy Ghost drive out the demons of those possessed.

We as Pentecostal people have the reputation of being mean-spirited and reclusive, meaning we close ourselves in and keep out others. God requires us to work out our salvation. “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). The type of fear in this Bible verse is that of reverence and humility.

We must be humble enough to forgive and be able to reconcile. Pentecostal people also do not let the saints repent and recover when they have fallen into sin. If you do not believe in repentance and reconciliation for others, why should we believe it for you? We should be willing to restore them in the spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1). If we would get into the Word of God, study it, and meditate on it, we would not be selfish, but have God's mind. God wishes that none would perish, but all would come to repentance (II Peter 3:9).

We must have the right spirit and attitude when we preach. Which is the greater victory? To see sinners go down or see them saved? If we find ourselves in any of the lists in the Bible of people who are not going to heaven, then we are not as spiritual as we think we are. We need to find out what is in us that hinders the move of God and repent (II Corinthians 7:1).

There is a lot more envy in CLGI than adultery and fornication. When our conscience is working properly, it tells us right from wrong. When the Lord saved us, he purged our conscience from dead works of sin (Hebrews 9:14). If people try to repent and we do not let them, that is wrong. We should not condemn them to the death penalty, as the scribes and Pharisees did to the woman caught in adultery, because Christ has set them free (Romans 8:1).

It is not what we should try to take from sinners when they come to church, but it is what we should give them (John 8:1-11). When we give them the Word of God (Light), it will drive out all darkness from within them. “Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). We are also the light of the world and we should let our light shine before men that they would see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

God bless you all,

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