When Things at Church are Really Bad

Ken Chapman · 1 Corinthians 5

INTRODUCTION

- This lesson was prompted by our text, not based upon conditions on the ground.
- It's equally important, maybe even more important, to live and worship and work and serve in such a way that we stop those problems and divisions before they ever raise their ugly head.

1 Churches Have Problems

1 Corinthians 5; Revelation 2; Revelation 3

- In chapter 5, the problem was that there was a fornicator in their midst. One who had his father's wife.
- Compounding that problem was that the church was doing nothing about it.
- It would be easier to list the churches that didn't have problems than it would to list the ones who did.
- Guess what? Churches still have problems.
- If we're not spiritually focused and God focused, those things, even the minor differences between us, can become a major rift and divide us.

2 Recognize That Churches Do Have Problems

2 Corinthians 1

- Number one is recognize that churches do have problems. That doesn't mean that we just accept it and we're okay with it.
- It should maybe challenge our faith a little less to realize I'm not the only one who's facing these issues.
- In all of these churches we read about in the New Testament that have problems, there's always hope.
- In Paul's second letter to this church at Corinth, he begins in 2 Corinthians chapter 1 by saying, our hope for you is unshaken.

3 Don't Let Church Problems Drive You From the Lord

Psalm 106:32–33; Ephesians 6:13

- Christians allow these church problems to drive them away not just from their local church, but to drive them away from the Lord.
- They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses on account of them.
- Don't let anyone or your reaction to anyone cause you to lose your faith.
- Take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, having done all to stand.
- They're problems. And we have to face those problems. But don't let those problems drive you away from the Lord.

4 Maintain Unity in the Lord's Body

1 Corinthians 6:6–7; Philippians 2

- We must do all that we can to maintain unity and faithfulness in the Lord's body.
- Brother goes to law against brother. And that before unbelievers. Now, therefore, it's already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another.
- Why do you not rather accept wrong? And why do you not rather let yourself be cheated?
- Instead of getting even, instead of making it right, instead of punishing somebody who needs to be punished, why don't you accept the wrong? Why don't you just let it go?
- The responsibility for maintaining unity lies with us.

5 We Must Maintain Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 5:5

- We could be in 100% unanimous agreement. But we're wrong. Unity then is not really a good thing, is it?
- We have to not only maintain unity, but we must maintain faithfulness.
- Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.
- Faithfulness is achieved by caring for the will of God more than I do my own selfish interest.
- The first epistle he says, push him out. In the second epistle, he says, welcome him back.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Don't leave the Lord over these problems. Maintain your unity, maintain your faithfulness, and individually maintain your faith.**

MY NOTES