

Becoming What We Ought Not

Heb. 5:11-12

Introduction:

- A. Paul was concerned about what the Hebrew Christians had become (NKJ, ASV)
- B. We are concerned when we see congregations of Christians becoming what they ought not to be:

Discussion:

I. Denominationalized.

- A. In thinking (cf. Prov. 23:7; Acts 17:29)
 - 1. Too fond of denominational writers.
 - 2. Too little time with Bible writers.
- B. In teaching (cf. Titus 1:11)
 - 1. Non-doctrinal subjects most popular.
 - 2. "Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative"
 - 3. Denominational concepts of grace, unity, etc.
- C. In language (cf. Neh. 13:23,24)
 - 1. Misuse of Reverend, pastor, church, etc.
 - 2. Old slogan: "Speak where Bible speaks, silent where Bible is silent, call Bible things Bible names...."
- D. In structure (Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Phil. 1:1)
 - 1. Corrupt local organization – "committees" for elders and deacons, etc.
 - 2. Organization above local level.

II. Secularized

- A. In our goals (cf. Col. 3:1)
 - 1. Social gospel's over emphasis on improving quality of life on earth.
 - 2. Over emphasis on physical and fiscal health, little attention to spiritual health.
- B. In our programs (cf. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34)
 - 1. Churches abuzz with secular activities.
 - 2. One lady said, "I so busy doing church work, I don't have time to teach the lost."
- C. In our priorities.
 - 1. Over emphasis on "church plant"
 - 2. Preachers expected to be PR man, general manager, super salesman – like big business.
- D. In our teaching (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4)
 - 1. Teachers to be philosopher or psychologists.
 - 2. Sermons expected to "pep rallies"

III. Fragmentized

- A. By the spirit of iniquity (2 Thess. 2:7; Rom. 16:17-18)
- B. By the spirit of intemperance (1 Cor. 9:25)
 - 1. Tongue (Jas. 1:26)
 - 2. Temper
 - 3. Zeal (cf. Rom. 10:1-4)
- C. By the spirit of inflexibility (1 Cor. 9:19-23; Jas. 3:17 NKJ)
 - 1. Every personal preference treated as matter of principle.
 - 2. Every matter of judgment treated as matter of faith.
- D. By the spirit of intolerance (Eph. 4:1-3; Rom. 15:1-5)
 - 1. Treats all opposing views and conduct the same
 - 2. Treats all sinners the same (cf. 1 Thes. 5:14; Jude 22, 23)

Conclusion:

- A. Need to be scriptural not denominational, spiritual not secular, united not fragmented.
- B. Need to be as we should in all things, as individuals and congregation.
- C. Need to become united with Christ and His body (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13)