

“Keep Thyself Pure”

1 Tim. 5:22

Introduction:

- A. The purity of church is safe when individual Christians learn this lesson.
- B. Christians can be contaminated with “other men’s sins” in a variety of ways.

Discussion:

I. Direct Participation.

- A. Adam did not initiate the first sin, but joined in (Gen. 3)
- B. Barnabas did not initiate the hypocrisy at Antioch, but joined in (Gal. 2:11-13).
- C. One does not have to initiate a corrupt religion or worldly practice.
 - 1. May not sponsor church sponsored recreation and social activities – but participate with others.
 - 2. May not sponsor a dance, gambling (chances, etc), pornography – but participate with others.

II. Aiding and Abetting.

- A. Saul did not actually stone Stephen – did lend indirect support (Acts 7:58; 8:1).
- B. John shows that we do not have to teach error to aid it (2 John 9-11).
- C. One does not have to directly participate to be a partaker.
 - 1. May merely provide place and/or opportunity.
 - 2. May merely provide material aid.
 - 3. May merely provide moral support (cf. Congratulate sinful marriage).
 - 4. May merely provide occasion for another to sin (1 Cor. 8:14).
 - a. May understand denomination human organization, but weaker may not understand.
 - b. Immodesty provides occasion for lust in the heart. (Cf. Matt. 5:28)

III. Failure to Reprove.

- A. It is not enough to “have no fellowship”, must “reprove” (Eph. 5:11).
- B. Need to stand with those who reprove (2 Tim. 4:14-16).
- C. The nature and extent of reproof depends on several factors.
 - 1. Difference must be made (Jude 22, 23; 1 Thess. 5:14).
 - 2. Nature, attitudes, and effect must be considered.
 - 3. Private or public matter.
- D. There are times at mere words of reproof are sufficient.
 - 1. In some cases gentle words (Gal. 6:1)
 - 2. In some cases sharp words (Tit. 1:10).
- E. When mere words fail, severe action is often required (1 Cor. 5: Rom. 16:17,18; Tit. 3:10; 2 Thess. 10, 14).

Conclusion:

- A. Many worry about purity of the church.
- B. Need to worry about personal purity.