

Purity and Unity in the Church

LBC 1689 says in 26/ 3 The purest churches under heaven are subject to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan; nevertheless Christ always hath had, and ever shall have a kingdom in this world, to the end thereof, of such as believe in him, and make profession of his name.

Some Marks of a bride that pleases Christ:

1. Doctrinally Sound D_____

Rev 2:2

Rev 2:6

Revelation 2:14-16

Revelation 2:20-22

2. E_____ Under Adversity/Persecution

Rev 2:3

Rev 2:9-10

Revelation 2:13

Revelation 2:19

Revelation 3:8-10

3. Passionate Love for Jesus

Revelation 2:4-5

Revelation 3:15-16

4. P_____ of Walk

Revelation 3:4

Reasons not to make unholy alliances with unbelievers:

1. The F_____ of Unity

Ephesians 4:1-6

2. The D_____ of Unity

Ephesians 4:7-11

3. The A_____ of Unity

Ephesians 4:12-16

4. The H_____ of Unity

Philippians 2:1-5

5. The S_____ of Unity

Philippians 1:27-30

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

i. Different C _____

ii. Different C _____

iii. Different C _____

G. T. Shedd said, "The secularization of Christianity and the Church is one of the evil tendencies of the day, and is one phase of the universalism which the church is now called upon to oppose. It is the repetition within the province of doctrinal theology of an attempt often made in former ages in practical propagandism. The Papal Church once sought to make Christianity a universal religion by adopting Pagan rites and ceremonies. Charlemagne would provide universal salvation to Saxons, by forcing them to be baptized at the point of a sword. Now, the attempt is to make the Christian religion a universal religion by emptying it of its distinguishing tenets, flatering it into a system of morality, and converting 'the righteousness which is of faith,' into 'the righteousness which is of the law.'"

ii. Different G _____

iii. U _____

2 John 8-11

2 Corinthians 11:2-4

Warfield said, "The chief dangers to Christianity do not come from the anti-Christian systems. Mohammedanism has never made inroads upon Christianity save by the sword. Nobody fears that Christianity will be swallowed up by Buddhism. It is corrupt forms of Christianity itself which menace from time to time the life of Christianity. Why make much of minor points of difference between those who serve the one Christ? Because a

pure gospel is worth preserving, and is not only worth preserving, but is logically (and logic will always work itself out in history) the only saving gospel.”

James Henly Thornwell said, “Where money is the great want, numbers must be sought; and where an ambition for numbers prevails, doctrinal purity must be sacrificed. The root of evil is the secular spirit of all our ecclesiastical institutions. What we want is a spiritual body; a Church whose power lies in the truth, and the presence of the Holy Ghost.”