

INTRODUCTION

1. Last Sunday morning, I shared with you what is happening in the Southern Baptist Convention
2. And because I have a great love for the church, I want to this morning to talk about Jesus' Commands to His Church and offer a few more thoughts on our subject last week
3. As His church, we want to do what He has designed us to do and be what He has called us to be
4. William Gurnall said, "As Christ hath His saints in Nero's court; so the devil his servants in the outer court of the visible church." (Thomas, I. D. E. [*The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations*](#). electronic ed. Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1999. Print.)
5. You'll understand what he means by that statement as we unfold "Jesus' Commands to His Church"
6. There are 5 commands from Jesus Christ to His church that I want to address today
7. To do that I want to begin by asking you to take God's Word and turn with me to Matthew chapter 5.
8. Beginning at verse 13, I want us to see the first command from Jesus that in essence says we are to...

LESSON

I. Be Separate from the World

Jesus said in Matthew 5:13-16 you are both "salt" and "light" to a

dark, sinful world and are therefore to influence unbelievers by living the gospel

He said, "(13) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. (14) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; (15) nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. (16) Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

When Jesus said in John 8:12, "(12) Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life," He was saying be separate from the world.

When He said in Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."

And what was the "will of My Father?"

To practice or live the righteousness of God because He said in verse 23 to those He never knew were those you practiced "lawlessness."

That's an illustration of those who refused to separate themselves from the world to follow Him

Being separate from the world means to "deny [yourself], and take up [your] cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23 - NASB)

This is a universal truth in Scripture and a way of life for the believer

Paul writing to the Romans said in Romans 12:1-2, "(1) Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians about their need to stop partnering with unbelievers when he said in 2 Corinthians 6:17, ""Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you."

"Come out" and "be separate" are imperatives

"Therefore" refers back to verses 14-16 which says, "(14) Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? (15) Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (16) Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

Being separate is the characteristic of a truly blessed man

Psalm 1:1-3 says, "(1) How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (3) He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers."

Albert Barnes said, "Since you are a peculiar people. Since God, the holy and blessed God, dwells with you and among you, Come out from among them. That is, from among idolaters and unbelievers; from a gay and vicious world. These words are taken, by a slight change, from Isaiah 52:11. They are there applied to the Jews in Babylon, and are a solemn call which God makes on them to leave the place of their exile, to come out from among the idolaters of that city and return to their own land; see my Note on that place. Babylon, in the Scriptures, is the emblem of whatever is proud, arrogant, wicked, and opposed to God; and Paul, therefore, applies the words here with great beauty and force to illustrate the duty of Christians in

separating themselves from a vain, idolatrous, and wicked world."

(Barnes, Albert. [Notes on the New Testament: II Corinthians & Galatians](#). Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print)

1. Believers are to separate themselves from unbelievers and their corrupting influences
 1. Because righteousness and lawlessness have nothing in common (v.14)
 2. Because light and darkness have nothing in common either (v.14)
 3. Because the temple of God has nothing in common with idols (v.15)
 4. Ephesians 5:6-11 says, "(6) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (7) Therefore do not be partakers with them; (8) for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (9) (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), (10) trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. (11) Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them."

2. In the world today, socialism is on the rise

In light of the Scriptures I just read we could say...

1. It is "lawless"
2. It is "darkness"
3. It is "idolatrous"
4. [And] It is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. Socialism is disguised by ideologies like "CRT", "Social justice" and if you affirm these then you're "Woke"
2. It's also disguised by groups like "Black Lives Matters" and "Antifa"
3. CRT or Critical Race Theory is defined in the The Encyclopedia Britannica as the concept in which race is a "socially constructed category" intended to maintain social, economic, and political inequalities, along with holding the U.S society as "inherently or systematically racist."
4. In short, "CRT holds to the belief that because of inherent racist systems within the fabric of America, all white people participate in racism, both willingly and unwillingly, knowingly and unknowingly."
(<https://www.centerforbiblicalunity.com/post/5-signs-your-church-may-be-going-woke>)
5. And "Black Americans qualify as victims based simply on their skin color and that White people are the cause of that victimhood and should feel ashamed."
(<https://americanconservatives.com/2021/07/ben-carson-calls-critical-race-theory-a-bunch-of-garbage-teacher-unions-pledge-to-push-crt-in-all-50-states>)
6. Ben Carson said, CRT is "an attempt to use race as a mechanism for redefining our society. Redefining what it was based on, and how it impacts everybody. And it wants our people to believe that your race is the most critical determinant of who you are and what happens to you and our society. In other words, it's a bunch of garbage."
(<https://americanconservatives.com/2021/07/ben-carson-calls-critical-race-theory-a-bunch-of-garbage-teacher-unions-pledge-to-push-crt-in-all-50-states>)
7. In an interview with the Greg Kelly Reports, Ben Carson "said he is in a unique position when it comes to race

because he is a neurosurgeon. He said that when he peels back the scalp and takes the bone flap off and opens the dura, he's looking at the thing that makes a person who they are. "It's not their nose or their hair or the skin that makes them who they are. It is their brain and the way that it processes information. That's what determines your character."

(<https://americanconservatives.com/2021/07/ben-carson-calls-critical-race-theory-a-bunch-of-garbage-teacher-unions-pledge-to-push-crt-in-all-50-states>)

8. John MacArthur, in an article on the Wickedness of Critical Race Theory, says Critical Race Theory "is the vicious, pernicious, and virulent brand of identity politics that results when neo-Marxist social philosophy is blended with postmodern theory" and it's "a worldview that deliberately foments and feeds on resentment, strife, hatred, and division."

(<https://montanadailygazette.com/2021/05/23/pastor-john-macarthur-on-the-wickedness-of-critical-theory>)

9. CRT advocates will tell you that being passive or silent about racism is not enough. In fact, silence is still racism. One must be *actively engaged in tearing down racist systems*, White supremacy, and White power dynamics in order to be considered anti-racist. This is a process that never ends because racism itself never ends. It only changes forms."

(<https://www.centerforbiblicalunity.com/post/5-signs-your-church-may-be-going-woke>)

10. This is what is going on in the culture and now in the church

3. The SBC adopted CRT last year in their annual meeting as "a set of analytical tools that explain how race has and continues to function in society, and intersectionality is the study of how different personal characteristics overlap and inform one's experience" (<https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/resolutions/on-critical-race-theory-and-intersectionality>)

1. And knowing this will help you in presenting the gospel
2. But how can this be a tool for the gospel when it denies it?
3. Again John MacArthur says, "In short, the doctrines of CRT are dangerous to society's well-being. But more, they are unsound and unbiblical — and utterly incompatible with authentic Christianity. CRT diverts attention from the real problem with the human race: all are sinful and under divine judgment. It removes the centrality of Christ and the cross. It turns the hearts and minds of Christians from things above to things on this earth. It obscures the promise of forgiveness for hopeless sinners by telling people they are hapless victims of other people's misdeeds. It is devoid of love. Christians are the last people who should ever become offended, resentful, envious, or unforgiving. Love "does not take into account a wrong suffered" (1 Corinthians 13:5). The mark of a Christian is turning the other cheek, loving our enemies, praying for those who mistreat us. Christ is the example whose steps we are to follow: "While being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23). Hatred, envy, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, hostility, divisiveness, bitterness, pride, selfishness, hard feelings, vindictiveness — and all similar attitudes of resentment — are the self-destructive works of the flesh. The beneficial fruit the Holy Spirit produces are the exact opposite attitudes: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." The NIV translates 1 Corinthians 13:5 this way: "[Love] keeps no record of wrongs." Such qualities, frankly, directly contradict the core principles of CRT.

The church cannot adopt this.

It is dangerous and unbiblical and promotes the works of the flesh rather than the fruit of the Spirit

It also undermines Jesus' message to evangelize the lost

How can you evangelize if this is the tool you're using to do it?

Understanding whether people are racists is not the issue

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The gospel is not that all are racists "and fall short of the glory of God" but that "all have sinned"

Each person is responsible for their own sin not the sin of others

That's the issue with the gospel and CRT reverses that

I'm not responsible for someone else's sin

I can't repent for something I haven't done therefore reparation is just as sinful as CRT that's promoting it

Paul says in Romans 3:23, "All" need to hear the gospel that they are sinners and need to repent of "their" sin

They need to see they have offended a holy God and must repent of that offense

It's not a matter of color but of character and deeds

The gospel is the "answer" to racism not the cause

The gospel cuts to the heart and reveals all it's ugliness

Partiality is sin and must be repented of if you're guilty of it just like any sin you're personally guilty of

The gospel exposes all of this and offers Christ who, according to Ephesians 2:14-16, is (14) ...Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (15) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, (16) and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity."

We are commanded by Jesus to be separate from the world. Next we are commanded by Jesus to...

II. Evangelize with My Message

1. But if churches continue to adopt this wicked ideology then there is no message from Jesus to evangelize with
2. What is His message?
3. Matthew 4:17 says, "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
4. Repent of what?
5. Matthew 5:48 says, "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
6. You are repenting of falling short of God's perfection, falling short of the glory of God or missing the mark that He has set to follow Him
7. We all have been imputed with the sin of Adam therefore giving us a sinful nature
8. We are sinners at conception
9. David said in Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."
10. As we grow our hearts begin to reflect that we're sinners
11. Jesus said in Matthew 15:18-19, "(18) But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. (19) For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.
12. That's what you're repenting of
13. Each person is guilty and is to blame for their own sin
14. And when you repent, you are accepting responsibility for your sin
15. In Romans 5:6 unbelievers are called "ungodly". Verse 8 calls them "sinners"

16. In the words of Romans 3:10-18, "(10) as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; (11) THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; (12) ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." (13) "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; (14) "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; (15) "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, (16) DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, (17) AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." (18) "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."
17. You sin because you're a sinner and Jesus says to repent and believe the gospel
18. The gospel is the good news of His death and resurrection for sinners
19. If you haven't repented and come to Christ, come now!!
20. But this is the message the church is to be preaching, instead of softening it with a social gospel
21. Remember, as Thomas Brooks said, "Till men have faith in Christ, their best services are but glorious sins." (Thomas, I. D. E. [*The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations*](#). electronic ed. Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1999. Print.)

Be separate, evangelize with my message and third He says to...

III. Trust Me

1. Everyday we are to trust Him
2. When Jesus fed the 5000 He was saying to His disciples, trust Me
3. When He came to the disciples walking on water, in essence, He was saying trust Me

4. When He granted Peter to come to Him on the water, He was saying "trust Me"
5. Paul said "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7 - NASB)
6. Galatians 5:5 says, "For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."
7. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "(5) Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. (6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."
8. Jeremiah 17:7 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD."
9. Isaiah 26:4 says, "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock."

D.L. Moody said, "Trust in yourself and you are doomed to disappointment. Trust in money and you may have it taken from you; but trust in God, and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity."

Jesus said to be separate from the world, evangelize with My message, trust Me and fourth...

IV. Love Me

1. We are to love Him like Peter was told by Jesus in John 21:15-22:

John says, in verse (15) "So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love (agapao) Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." (16) He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (agapao) Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know

that I love (phileo) You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."
(17) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (phileo) Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love (phileo) Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo) You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep. (18) "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." (19) Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!" (20) Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" (21) So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" (22) Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"

2. Are you willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in your love for Christ by laying down your life for Him?
3. Jesus was asked by a lawyer in Matthew 22:36-39, "
(36)Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' (38) This is the great and foremost commandment. (39) The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' (40) "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
4. Does this describe you?
5. Do you love God "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind?"
6. Wha about your neighbor?
7. Do you love him as you love yourself?

Last Jesus said to...

V. Obey Me

1. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
2. He said in verse 21, "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me..."
3. He said again in verse 23, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My words..."
4. Loving Christ is obeying Him
5. That's the only proof we have to express our love for Him, mere words are not enough

CONCLUSION

1. Do you love Jesus?
2. Do you obey Him?
3. Are you being separate from the world?
4. Are you evangelizing with His message to unbelievers?
5. Are you trusting Him for and in all things?
6. Remember "Judas heard all Christ's sermons." (THOMAS GOODWIN) (Thomas, I. D. E. [*The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations*](#). electronic ed. Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1999. Print.)
7. And where's he at now?
8. These are hard questions but they must be asked and honestly addressed in our lives
9. If you have gotten caught up in the socialists movement today (CRT, Social Justice, BLM, etc), you need to repent and understand the gospel is the true liberator

10. This is what everyone needs not to burn down the structures of society
11. America has come a long way
12. It's sad to say the least to see if going in this direction
13. The same is true with the church
14. Don't be part of the woke movement
15. Be separate from the world, evangelize with Jesus' message, trust, love, and obey Him
16. Let's pray