

KEEPING OURSELVES

1Tim.5:21,22; Jas.1:18-27

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As disciples of Jesus:
 - a. We have by faith been baptized into a spiritual relationship with him, with the Father, and with the Holy Spirit, Mt.28:18-20.
 - b. We have spiritual obligations, Jno.8:31,32.
 - c. We are to deny (disregard, leaven behind) self, take up his cross daily, and follow him, Mt.16:24,25.
 - d. We are to follow him as our example, 1Pet.2:21; 1Cor.11:1; Phil.2:5-8; Heb.5:8,9.
2. As disciples of Jesus we are required to abide in his doctrine, 2Jno.9; Col.3:16,17; 1Cor.10:31.
3. Our emphasis in this lesson is on various passages requiring us as his disciples to **“KEEP OURSELVES”**.

II. DISCUSSION

A. WE ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP OURSELVES UNSPOTTED (UNSTAINED; FREE FROM DEFILEMENT) FROM THE WORLD, Jas.1:18-27; Cf. 1Jno.2:15-17; Rom.12:1,2.

1. We are not keeping ourselves unspotted from the world if and when we practice any of the following things:
 - a. Drinking intoxicants, even if we do not get drunk, including social drinking. Cf. 1Cor.6:9-11; 1Tim.3:8; Tit.1:7; 1Pet.4:1-4; Prov.20:1,2; 23:29-32.
 - b. Wearing immodest apparel, 1Tim.2:9,10; 1Pet.3:1-4.
 - c. Sinful use of the tongue; such as: cursing; corrupt communication out of your mouth; taking the Lord's name in vain, Jas.3:9,10; Eph.4:29; Exo.20:7; Deut.5:11; Col.3:8. Cf. Psa.39:1; Prov.18:21; 21:23; Jas.3:1,2; Mt.12:36,37.
 - d. The works of the flesh, Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:1-7; 1Cor.6:9-11; Rom.13:13,14 (“and such like”).
 - e. Lying, Col.3:9; Rev.21:8.
 - f. Dishonesty, Rom.12:17; 2Cor.21.
 - g. Failing to pay one's debts (bankruptcy to avoid paying one's debts), Psa.37:21; Rom.12:17; 2Cor.8:21; Rom.13:8.

- h. Addiction to recreational drugs, including the drug nicotine. Cf. 1Cor.6:12.
- 2. A spotted, stained, defiled soul not only endangers one's own spiritual well-being, but also gives the enemies of truth and righteousness occasion to blaspheme the name of God. Cf. Rom.2:17-24; Tit.2:1-8; 1Pet.4:12-14.

B. WE ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP OUR BODIES IN SUBJECTION.

- 1. 1Cor.9:24-27.
 - a. To buffet one's body and keep it in subjection is to keep it in bondage; to buffet it and lead it about as a slave.
 - b. According to this text:
 - (1) First one is in conflict or in competition making whatever efforts or sacrifices necessary to obtain the prize or to be crowned, whether or not it is a corruptible crown or an incorruptible crown, Vv.24,25.
 - (2) In case of the race for the corruptible crown, no matter how many enter the race and run exercising temperance in body and mind in all things, only one can win or receive the prize.
 - (3) However, in the race for the incorruptible crown all who run and who keep under their body and bring it in subjection are assured of the victory and the crown, Vv.26,27.
 - (4) The only possibility of failure, of being a castaway, or to be disqualified, or to fail shamefully of the prize or the crown is if one does not "keep under his body and bring it into subjection".
- 2. We have the assurance of God in 1Cor.10:13; Jas.1:12; 2Tim.4:6-8 that we can do what is here required to secure the incorruptible crown of life!
- 3. Whatever we do in our bodies in word or deed we are to do to the glory of God; for we are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which are God's, 1Cor.10:31; 6:19,20.
 - a. To do this we must seek and set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth; we must also mortify, put to death, crucify, abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul, Col.3:1,2,5,6; 1Pet.2:11; 2Cor.6:17-7:1.

C. WE ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP (GUARD) OURSELVES FROM IDOLS.

1. 1Jno.5:21.
2. 1Cor.10:14, flee from idolatry – turn your backs on it.
3. Excessive love or veneration for a person or a thing may constitute idolatry. Therefore, there are many forms of idolatry; such as:
 - a. Images, Exo.20:4,5; Deut.5:8,9; Ac.17:16,22-31;19:26-28,34,35.
 - b. Mammon worship or covetousness, Eph.5:3-5; Col.3:5; Mt.6:19-21,24.
 - c. Hero worship or worship of man, Ac.10:24-26; 14:8-18.
 - d. Self worship, Psa.3:18,19.
 - e. Pleasure worship, 2Tim.3:1-4,5; Cf. 1Cor.10:7.
4. Idolatry in any form is sinful! We must keep (guard) ourselves from idols and from things offered to idols! Ac.21:25; 15:27-29.

D. WE ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP OURSELVES OUT OF OTHER MEN'S MATTERS; THAT IS, AS BUSYBODIES IN OTHER MEN'S MATTERS.

1. 1Pet.4:15.
 - a. Claiming rights in matters with which he has no proper concern; of things that do not concern or pertain to him.
 - b. “Not busied in their own business, but are over-busied in that of others.”
 - c. “A meddler.” “Meddling in other persons’ affairs.”
2. 2Th.3:11.
 - a. “Their only business is to be busybodies.”
 - b. “Busy only with what is not their own business.”
 - c. “Working at no business, but being busybodies.”
 - d. “Not busy, but busybodies; just being “nosey” in other men’s matters that do not pertain to you, and is sinful.
 - e. Denotes being busy in useless and superfluous things, about which one need not trouble himself – occupied about trifles.
3. 1Tim.5:13.
 - a. With a perverted activity in the concern of others which implies a neglect of their own.
4. Some evils of being busybodies:
 - a. Busybodies are idle, but busy; idle as regards their own work, which is sinful; but busy with the business of others – also sinful.

- b. Busybodies are ever meddling with what belongs not to them – ever interfering with the business of others while neglecting their own.
 - c. The meddling spirit of busybodies is mean and degrading and leads to misunderstand, strife, and mischief of many kinds to others.
 - d. Busybodies become tattlers of scandal, “speaking things which they ought not” – things that may be false, or, if true, are not to be repeated from house to house!
5. We have enough to do if we do our own business as required in 1Th.4:10,11.
 6. This doesn’t require us to ignore the needs of others or occasions of sin in the lives of others or times of rejoicing with others.
 - a. 1Cor.5:1-13.
 - b. Rom.12:13-16; Phil.2:1-8.
 - c. Gal.6:1,2.
 - d. Jas.5:13-20.
 - e. Ac.8:18-24.
 - f. 2Th.3:6-15.

E. WE ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP OURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD, Jude 21.

1. To do this we by faith keep God’s commandments, for this is the love of God, 1Jno.5:3. Cf. 1Jno.4:16b.
2. 1Jno.2:3-6.
3. Jno.14:15,21,23,24.
4. Jno.15:9.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Surely, without a doubt, we understand that keeping ourselves in these things is a personal duty. I can’t do it for you; you can’t do it for me!
2. Keeping ourselves in these things is something the Lord requires of us. If we do not do it, we sin!
3. What the Lord requires of us we can do. For the Lord requires nothing of us we can’t do and then condemns us in sin if we don’t do it!
4. 1Jno.2:1,2; Ac.3:19; 2Pet.3:9; Heb.5:8,9.