

IV. The Work of Reconciliation Should be Valued over Making Judgments

“Stop Judging People!”

A. Reconciliation is best accomplished when the church stops making Judgments

1. The chief sin is not the actual sin, but the actual judgment of that particular sin
2. Cannot tell anybody they may be wrong or in sin, unless one disagrees with their ideology
3. Progressives are (ironically) so very judgmental when it comes to certain issues (i.e. masks, vax, sexual ethics, environmental issues, racism, etc. . . .)

B. Biblical Perspective

1. Everybody judges, it all depends on the authority, the standard
2. Discerning between Judgmentalism and Righteous Judgment
3. People can only be reconciled when judgments are made (wrong made right)
4. Church must be gracious and charitable, but it does not mean that we fail or refuse to call out behavior that is wrong or sinful
 - a) John 7:24
 - b) Matthew 7:1ff
 - c) Zechariah 8:16

V. Gracious Behavior is More Important than Right Belief

A. The Downplaying of Sound Doctrine

1. What truly matters is not so much what we believe but especially how we behave
2. Willingness to compromise the truth of God's word in order to demonstrate "love" and "compassion"
3. Will "pick and choose" then proceed to misuse Bible passages - Biblical principles
 - a) i.e. - Student loan forgiveness is right because Jesus forgives our debts!!

B. Biblical Perspective

1. Truly gracious behavior finds its source in Sound Doctrine
 - a) Ephesians/Colossians
 - b) Titus 2:1; 2:7-10
 - c) 2 Timothy 4:2-4
2. Good theology consistently applied shows itself in gracious behavior because it honors/obeys God's objective truth and unchanging standard
3. We must always be gracious, kind, caring and compassionate, but at the same time never compromise the truth for the sake of "love" or "loving thy neighbor"
4. Is it more gracious to affirm people in a lie or to tell them the truth?

VI. Inviting Questions is More Valuable than Supplying Answers

The idea that there can be no real certainty

A. Nobility in not knowing

1. Being "open" and "unsure" shows "humility"
2. Progressives want to say that we cannot be certain about most things . . . i.e. Reliability of Scripture - Sufficiency - Doctrines . . . (Hell - Women's Roles - Gay Christianity)
3. Uncertainty allows you to deny the truth while "trying" to find the truth
4. Position Conservatives as "Sure" - Dogmatic - Rigid - Closed Minded - Arrogant

B. Biblical Perspective

1. We are to openly invite all honest, sincere questions and take them seriously
2. We are not equally certain about all things regarding the faith, but we are certain that the Scriptures contain the answer, even if we do not fully understand
3. The basis for certainty is the word of God - 2 Timothy 3:15-16; 2 Peter 1:20
4. It's a matter of Believing the truth that is contained in Scripture

VII. Encouraging the Personal Search is More Important Than Group Unity

- Focuses on the Individual
- Undermines Unity in the Church

A. Progressives:

1. See people as "brave" when they question/deviate from Orthodoxy, while seeing those who hold firmly to biblical teachings as those who simply "go along" with leadership
2. Church is trying to protect its own authority/power
3. Church is narrow-minded and not concerned with the hurting/questioning individual
4. View church Discipline as archaic - unloving and unnecessary
5. Not content with God's truth or convinced His ways are best

B. Biblical Perspective:

1. We are the Body of Christ and as such we ought to be in a great deal of agreement as regenerated believers in Christ
 - a) 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - b) Ephesians 4:1-6
 - c) Philippians 2:1-2
2. It's not about finding your own path, following your feelings, but conforming to God's word, seeking His truth
 - a) Romans 12:1-5
 - b) 1 John 2:15-17
3. It's not about man's journey to find God, but God "finding" us
 - a) 1 John 4:10
 - b) Romans 5:8