

Message 5-8-16
GROWING TOGETHER WITHOUT FALLING APART
(Romans 16:16-27)

Introduction:

- As a church grows there is increasing danger of it falling apart
 1. It is easy to become focused on n_____
 2. We must concern ourselves with growing p_____
- Two principles can be derived from this passage to help us grow together without falling apart.

Beware of D_____ (16-18)

- The gospel does not d_____ (anyone can be saved) but Christians often do, which brings division
 1. Verse 16 commands *greet one another with a h_____ kiss*
 - a. Paul was not concerned about the method of greeting (a kiss) but with the nature of the greeting (h_____)
 - b. Christian greetings must be d_____ than the customary greeting (the meaning of holy)
 2. How is your greeting of those in this church different than our society's customary greeting?
- Be accepting of one another does not mean over_____ sin
 1. Verse 17 commands *keep your eye on those who c_____ dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching...*
 - a. Translations are similar – *mark, watch out,*
 - b. A further command is given to t_____ away from such ones.
 2. In our day, what should we “keep an eye on?”
 - a. Dis_____ attenders – deal with it, don't participate in it.
 - b. Going behind l_____ - bring it to the attention of the leadership.

Be Wise in D_____ (19-20, 25-27)

- The word wise occurs twice in this passage
 1. Verse 19 – be wise in what is g_____
 - a. W_____ is never good
 - b. Trial and e_____ is not the way to wisdom
 2. Verse 27 – the o_____ wise God
 - a. God's wisdom is r_____ (vv. 25,26)
 - b. We learn wisdom from the S_____
 - 1) What percentage of Protestant pastors have a biblical world view? (____%) according to Barna research.
 - 2) What percentage of evangelical Christians have a biblical world view? – much less
- S_____ actively works to tear the church apart (v. 20)
 1. His strategy is not to s_____ Christians from giving, fellowshiping, learning, or praying
 2. His strategy is to tempt Christians to be l_____ in any ONE of these four areas which are vital to spiritual growth (which of these do you tend to be lazy in?)
- but he wanted them to move beyond obedience to being w_____ in what is good.
 - a. It's wise to be obedient but obedience doesn't make you wise
 - 1) A 2-year old gets his hand slapped for trying to stick a finger in the electric socket. Is he suddenly a wise 2-year old for not doing this?

- 2) Anyone can live in s_____ obedience but learning the principles behind it all is learning wisdom.
- b. The Scriptures give us principles (called doctrine)
 - 1) The doctrine of marriage gives the wisdom behind s_____ (apply it to dating, sexual identity, sexual fulfillment, etc).
 - 2) Continue learning these principles, living them, and s_____ them with children, family, friends.

Conclusion:

- One day, God will c_____ Satan under our feet (v. 20)
When will this happen?
 1. Soon? – if so this promise has failed since the Roman Christians are all dead and Satan still is active. The Greek word literally means “in s_____” and may mean speedily in reference to time (soon) or kind (whenever it happens it will happen quickly)
 2. At Christ’s c_____ (Rev 19:8-14; 1 Thess 4:17) – Satan will get crushed quickly under all believers feet!
- Until then, let us beware of division and be wise in doctrine so that we can grow together, never falling apart (v. 27)