The Marks of the Great Christian Church

PREACH THE GOSPEL

Php 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1. Conversation

--conduct and behavior, but more accurately it means the conduct and behavior of citizenship, of a person who is the citizen of a great nation

1. “Becometh” Honor the Gospel

The believer's behavior is to fit the gospel he professes.

•  correspond to the gospel he professes.

•  be suitable to the gospel he professes.

•  be worthy of the gospel he professes.

No believer within the church is to bring dishonor to the gospel. If a person professes the gospel he is to live worthy of the gospel. His conduct and behavior is to fit and correspond to the gospel he professes.

Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

3. **Standing fast.** Remember that Paul was in prison, awaiting trial on a capital charge. There was a chance he would be executed for a false crime. He thought he would be released, but he was not absolutely sure. Therefore, whether he was able to return to the church or not, there was a much needed exhortation that the church must heed: the exhortation to stand fast.

1.  The church must **stand fast in unity**: "in one spirit, with one mind."

⇒  One spirit means that

all the members of a church must be born again by the Spirit of Christ. All members must have a renewed spirit from the same source, from the same Person. They must all be committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. They must all have a heart given to Him.

⇒  One mind means that all members must be set upon the same purpose; they must all be focused upon the purpose of Jesus Christ.

The point is this: the world—its people, families, and nations—may be split and divided, arguing and differing, fussing and feuding, fighting and divorcing, warring and killing, seeking and grasping; but the church is not to live that way. The church is to be unified; it is to be one in spirit and one in mind; one in heart and one in purpose.

Mark 1:15*—And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and* ***believe the gospel****.*

1Cor. 1:17—*For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to* ***preach the gospel****: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*

Mark 8:35*—For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but* ***whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's****, the same shall save it.*

1. Believe the Gospel
2. Preach the Gospel
3. Lose your life for the Gospel

Php 2:7—*But* ***made*** *himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

*kenow kenoo, ken-o'-o*

*to make empty, to abase, neutralize, make (of none effect, of no reputation, void), be in vain.*

2Cor. 5:21*—For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1Cor. 9:22*—To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

Php. 1:27*—Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

1. **Live by the faith of the Gospel**

In doctrine and mind, being thus knit together with common bonds, they continue through the strength of faith to bear all adversity in such a way, that they allow nothing unworthy of the profession of the Gospel. The word signifies to stand fast in, and it is proper to wrestlers, that stand fast and do not move their feet back at all.

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Romans 1:17—*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,* ***The just shall live by faith****.*

Gal.3:11*—But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

Hebrews10:38*—Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

Jude 1:3—*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

1. *Fight by faith*

1Tim. 6:12*—Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

Heb 12:1*—Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and* ***let us run with patience*** *the race that is set before us,*

*Heb 6:12—That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

*Heb 6:15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*

1. *Run the race through faith and patience*
2. *Walk by faith*
3. *Overcome by faith*
4. *Witness by faith*
5. *Pray in faith*

Mat. 21:22*—And all things, whatsoever ye shall* ***ask in prayer, believing****, ye shall receive.*

James 1:6*—But let him* ***ask in faith****, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

James 5:15*—And the* ***prayer of faith*** *shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

2Cor. 7:1—*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Psalm 138:8*—The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.*

1Thess. 3:10*—Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?*

1John 4:17*—Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

Titus 2:10*—Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.*

11*—For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, {hath...: or, to all men, hath appeared}*

12*—Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

13*—Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

Romans 13:12—*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light*

Hosea 8:3*—Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.*

12*—I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.*

2*—Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.*

Titus 1:16*—They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

1Tim. 5:12*—Having damnation, because they have cast off their* ***first faith****.*

Hebrews 5:12*—For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the* ***first principles*** *of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

Romans 4:11*—And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:*

24*—But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;*

Rev. 2:4*—Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy* ***first love****.*

5*—Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

Hebrews 10:35*—Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

Gal. 2:7*—But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;*

Gal. 3:8*—And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

Gal. 4:13*—Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.*

2Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

John 8:34*—Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

Romans 6:16*—Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

Mat. 6:24*—No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

2Chron. 30: 8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but **yield yourselves unto the LORD**, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

9 For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, **if ye return unto him**.

18 For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. **But Hezekiah prayed for them**, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

19*—That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.*

20*—And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.*

*21—And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with* ***great gladness****: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day,* ***singing with loud instruments unto the LORD.***

22*—And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and* ***making confession to the LORD God*** *of their fathers.*

Romans 10:10*—For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

*23—And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they* ***kept other*** *seven days with gladness.*

24*—For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.*

25*—And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah,* ***rejoiced****.*

26*—So there was* **great joy** *in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.*

27*—Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and* ***their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place****, even unto heaven.*