

CHRISTIAN CONSISTENCY

Rom 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Inconsistency: "Not consistent; incompatible; incongruous."
 - 1. ^(a) Of propositions, ideas, beliefs, etc., so related that both (or all) cannot be true.
 - 2. ^(b) Of persons, incoherent or illogical in thought or action; hence inconsistent; fickle.
 - 3. ^(c) In respect to character, sentiment, etc., incongruous; incompatible; irreconcilable." Webster
- B. Reasons for studying a lesson Christian consistency:
 - 1. To show that the inconsistent one does not practice nor thus evidently believe what he preaches. Because practicing what one preaches is consistent
 - 2. A person who is inconsistent is wrong regardless, because of the principle taught by Paul in Rom 2:1
 - 3. At least three ways we today are practicing this error

DISCUSSION:

I. LOOKING AT OTHERS' FAULTS & FORGETTING WE ALSO ARE HUMAN

- A. There is a double crime committed when the fault-finder commits the same sin Matt 7:3,4
 - 1. Ill. A person might spot the gossip in a congregation then gossip about the gossip. Note Jas 3:6
 - 2. Remember what Paul said in Rom 2:1
- B. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw bricks
- C. Note some applications of this principle
 - 1. Condemn denominations on plans of salvation, yet many do not know or cannot tell the Bible plan
 - 2. In the work of the church, we condemn our brethren (and rightfully so) for their liberalism, yet many times don't know what the work of the church is or maybe we know but are not doing it
 - 3. We condemn liberal brethren and denominations for their vain worship, yet miss assemblies for worship or when assembled don't worship from the heart, we just go through the motions
 - 4. We criticize the elders, teachers, preachers, song leaders, etc. but don't develop ourselves

II. BY BEING A PARTY TO PHARISEEISM (telling others how, yet don't do ourselves)

- A. The Pharisees "said and did not" Matt 23:3
 - 1. We want "all spiritual blessings" Eph 1:3 but are unwilling to "do"
 - 2. We want our prayers answered and remind ourselves of Matt 7:7 but are unwilling to: Confess our faults, pray one for another Jas 5:16

- 3. When our prayers are not answered we wonder why has the Lord forsaken me? The answer is Jas 4:3
- B. Phariseeism says: Lord what do you want me to do? then immediately changes to "How much do I have to do?"
 - 1. We are unwilling to go the second mile Matt 5:41
 - 2. We want "pure religion" but are unwilling to do what James says constitutes pure religion Jas 1:27
 - a. We stress the "unspotted" part
 - b. But leave the "visiting" to somebody else
 - 3. We say the great commission begins at home Matt 28:19,20; Mk 16:15,16 and then don't even try to teach our next door neighbor the gospel
 - 4. We emphasize church has benevolent responsibility to saints only but individuals have responsibilities to all needy according to ability, but then don't use opportunities that present themselves
- C. Jesus called these Pharisees hypocrites for this type of an attitude Matt 23:1-33
- D. Remember, our righteousness must exceed theirs Matt 5:20

III. BY CLAIMING A DESIRE FOR TRUTH, BUT REFUSING TO CONDEMN THE FALSE TEACHER OR ONE WHO PRACTICES ERROR

- A. Notice some related scripture
 - 1. Try the spirits 1Jhn 4:1
 - 2. Mark those who cause division Rom 16:17
 - 3. Rebuke them Tit 1:10-13
 - 4. Have no fellowship with them Eph 5:11
 - 5. Withdraw from the disorderly brother 2Thess 3:6
 - 6. Have no company with them 2Thess 3:14
 - 7. Receive not, reject them 2Jhn 10,11; Tit 3:10
heretick = schismatic, factious, a follower of a false doctrine
- B. Must have more than desire for truth, must be willing to defend it and condemn those in error Jer 1:9,10
- C. If what we have is the truth then everything else is error and must be "rooted out and pulled down" then replaced with truth Jer 1:10; Matt 15:13

CONCLUSION:

- A. We are inconsistent when we:
 - 1. Look at others faults while not recognizing our own
 - 2. Tell others how, yet refuse to do them ourselves
 - 3. Fail to practice what we preach
 - 4. Fail to condemn error or those who practice error
- B. Certainly this is not an exhaustive study of inconsistencies on our part, but hopefully it will help us to recognize the need for being consistent: that is, bringing our lives into complete harmony with God's will.