"The Righteousness Of God" Part 7

Pastor Grant Williams August 10, 2016

For the last several weeks we have talked about looking at our lives by measuring, testing and observing it to see do we live by God's Word or the World? Are we being righteous or doing what is right according to God's Word. Our conduct needs to align with our new nature, the nature of God.

Doing what is right is the foundation on which our faith is built. When we do God's Word we are doing what is right. What is right is by Faith, by action go be a witness, go make disciples. The only thing when we stand before God that we are going to be judged by is how we lived for Him - were we righteous, were we Godly, did we witness, did we make disciples, did we do the "things" in God's Word.

1 Timothy 6:1-5 AMP

I Let all who are <u>under the yoke as bond servants</u> esteem their own [personal] masters worthy of honor and fullest respect, so that the name of God and the teaching [about Him] may not be brought into disrepute and blasphemed.

2 Let those who have believing masters not be disrespectful or scornful [to them] on the grounds that they are brothers [in Christ]; rather, they should serve [them all the better] because those who benefit by their kindly service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these duties.

- 3 But if anyone teaches otherwise and <u>does not assent (agree</u> and comply) to the sound and wholesome messages of our <u>Lord Jesus Christ</u> (the Messiah) and <u>the teaching which is in agreement with godliness</u> (piety toward God),
- 4 He is puffed up with pride and stupefied with conceit, [although he is] woefully ignorant.

He has a morbid fondness for controversy and disputes and strife about words, which result in (produce) envy and jealousy, quarrels and dissension, abuse and insults and slander, and base suspicions,

5 And protracted wrangling and wearing discussion and perpetual friction among men who are corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth,... From such withdraw.

1 Timothy 6:11-16 AMP

11 But as for you, O man of God, <u>flee from all these things</u>; aim at and <u>pursue righteousness</u> (<u>right standing with God and true goodness</u>), <u>godliness</u> (which is the loving fear of God and being Christlike), faith, love, steadfastness (patience), and gentleness of heart.

12 <u>Fight the good fight of the faith</u>; lay hold of the eternal life to which you were summoned and [for which] you confessed the good confession [of faith] before many witnesses.

One of the areas in our lives that stops us from doing what is right or righteous and being Godly or showing Godliness is our character and integrity. Let's look at what God said through the Apostle Paul to the church...to the church of Christ....to the body of believers.

This is not to the unbelievers, the ones who say I'm not walking with Christ. They don't care about what you think and how they are living according to God's Word. They have their own rules.

Acts 1:8 KJV

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We can't be witnesses or righteous witnesses if we don't have integrity, a bad reputation or a bad character which manifests itself by many different ways. One of those ways is our tongue...

Let's look at the perfect witness over in **Revelations 1:5.**

Revelation 1:5-6 KJV

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Now, priests are in the five-fold ministry. In the Old Testament they were the ones that took care of the Temple. They prayed for the nation, took care of the strangers, widows and orphans. They received the tithes and also took care of the sacrifices.

The kings were the ones who went out to battle, who went out and fought to bring back the spoil. The priests took care of the spiritual activities and the kings took care of the secular activities.

So when you start talking about kings and priests and bringing them over to the New Testament you would say that these particular verses are a New Testament revelation of what God is doing in the End Times to bring the Body of Christ to the fullness of who we are and can be.

We as a church need to move on and get to the level we are supposed to be: in power, healing, finances and in ownership of who we are in Christ. We haven't gotten to those places because we have had the wrong model. We haven't come together for that divine partnership and operated the way God said to operate it in order to take possession here on this earth.

But now, we are coming together with the knowledge of who He is and from you and I deciding, "I am going to do it God's Way"!!

2 Peter 1:2-3 KJV

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

So the priests hear the direction and timing of the move of God and the kings hear that and go move according to the Word of God from the direction of the priest. The kings go out and fight the battles and bring back the spoil (souls) and the kingdom is advanced.

Now, this whole idea is to replenish the earth. To replenish comes from the book of Genesis Chapter 1 verse 28. It has to do with: to stock with abundance to recover a former fullness, it has to do with finish or complete. We are out there to complete something here on this earth – we are to spread the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Genesis 1:28 KJV

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

How are we going to do this? By being righteous or doing what is right. In order to replenish the world by being disciples we have to have character and integrity in order for the message to be heard. The message of Jesus Christ and especially now, the End Times message.

Integrity means: — the entire unimpaired state of anything —particularly the mind. It means moral soundness, purity, uncorrupt, uprightness, honesty, or honest people.

God develops in us integrity, man promotes off of skill. But God waits until you develop integrity in order for you to fulfill His Plan the right way and in the right place and at the right time.

God is not bringing you up somewhere so you can fail. Go is making it so you will prevail! So character and integrity must be developed inside of us. Our character manifests our integrity... who we are, what we do and say reveals our moral soundness, our purity.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 TLB

- 1 You may as well know this too, Timothy, that in the last days it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian.
- 2 For people will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them, and thoroughly bad.
- 3 They will be hardheaded and never give in to others; they will be constant liars and troublemakers and will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel, and sneer at those who try to be good.

- 4 They will betray their friends; they will be hotheaded, puffed up with pride, and prefer good times to worshiping God.
- 5 <u>They will go to church, yes, but they won't really believe</u> anything they hear. Don't be taken in by people like that.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV

- 1 This know also, that in the last days <u>perilous times</u> (<u>spiritually</u> <u>difficult times</u>) shall come.
- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

My job as a priest, as a pastor is to equip you to be that witness and make disciples. My job is to make you a <u>lean mean fighting king</u>. Cut off all the unbelief, the things that weigh you down!

Paul instructs the church to become lean - to get rid of sin and the junk in their lives so they can be that righteous witness for the Kingdom of God. Now remember, Paul is writing the church, the born again believer. This is not to the unbeliever, so don't get so appalled when the ungodly act ungodly, but do when those who proclaim to be Godly don't act like it.

Hebrews 12:1 AMPC

12 Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], <u>let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us,</u>

Paul gives instructions to the church all throughout the New Testament on how we are to conduct ourselves in this new nature. What are we to cut off...

Ephesians 5:3-12 NLT

- 3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.
- 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.
- 5 You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.
- 6 **Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins**, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him.
- 7 Don't participate in the things these people do.
- 8 **For once you were full of darkness,** but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!
- 9 For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.
- 10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

- 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.
- 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret.

1 Corinthians 5:10-13 J.B. Phillips

9-13 In my previous letter I said, "Don't mix with the immoral." I didn't mean, of course, that you were to have no contact at all with the immoral of this world, nor with any cheats or thieves or idolaters—for that would mean going out of the world altogether! But in this letter I tell you not to associate with any professing Christian who is known to be an impure man or a swindler, an idolater, a man with a **foul tongue**, a drunkard or a thief.

My instruction is: "Don't even eat with such a man." Those outside the church it is not my business to judge. But surely it is your business to judge those who are inside the church—God alone can judge those who are outside. It is your plain duty to 'put away from yourselves that wicked person'.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 Amplified Bible (AMP)

- 9 I wrote you in my [previous] letter not to associate [closely and habitually] with unchaste (impure) people—
- 10 Not [meaning of course that you must] altogether shun the immoral people of this world, or the greedy graspers and cheats and thieves or idolaters, since otherwise you would need to get out of the world and human society altogether!

Il But now I write to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of [Christian] brother if he is known to be guilty of immorality or greed, or is an idolater [whose soul is devoted to any object that usurps the place of God], or is a person with a foul tongue [railing, abusing, reviling, slandering], or is a drunkard or a swindler or a robber. [No] you must not so much as eat with such a person.

12 What [business] of mine is it and what right have I to judge outsiders? Is it not those inside [the church] upon whom you are to pass disciplinary judgment [passing censuring sentence on them as the facts require]?

13 God alone sits in judgment on those who are outside. Drive out that wicked one from among you [expel him from your church].

There are 2 parts to this message. The first is the instruction for what is not right and what not to say and turn from it and be Godly and righteous.

The second is for us to show love (God's Word), if we love God, we will keep His commands. So we need to choose, if the Word says we need to withdraw from someone and not even eat with them we do it. Or to be disobedient is giving approval by our lack of saying and doing something for those who call themselves believers or imitators who still do these things.

In order for those who are in the dark, dark knowledge, without Christ, to see Jesus in us we have to cut these things/people out of our life so they can see the difference and we can prove it ourselves that we are changed.

One of these areas that separates us from our old man or old natural man is our words. What we speak is an indication of what is in the heart - God said so. So, what is profane or foul?

Foul or Profane Defined

to reference: sexual body part, bodily function, sexual act used in a(n): angry, funny or way to cause hurt, demean or

make light of.

Luke 6:45 AMP

45 The upright (honorable, intrinsically good) man out of the good treasure [stored] in his heart produces what is upright (honorable and intrinsically good), and the evil man out of the evil storehouse brings forth that which is depraved (wicked and intrinsically evil); for out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart his mouth speaks.

1 Corinthians 13:11 AMP

II When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways and have put them aside.

1 Corinthians 13:11 GNT

II When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways.

Stop being around people who are habitually sinning - living in iniquity...and if you are the one doing it, STOP IT!

Proverbs 13:20 GNT

20 Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make friends with stupid people, you will be ruined.

<u>Proverbs 12:15-25 GNT</u>

- 15 Stupid people always think they are right. Wise people listen to advice.
- 16 When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known. Smart people will ignore an insult.
- 17 When you tell the truth, justice is done, but lies lead to injustice.
- 18 Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.
- 19 A lie has a short life, but truth lives on forever.
- 20 Those who plan evil are in for a rude surprise, but those who work for good will find happiness.
- 21 Nothing bad happens to righteous people, but the wicked have nothing but trouble.
- 22 The Lord hates liars, but is pleased with those who keep their word.

- 23 Smart people keep quiet about what they know, but stupid people advertise their ignorance.
- 24 Hard work will give you power; being lazy will make you a slave.
- 25 Worry can rob you of happiness, but kind words will cheer you up.

My actions are measurable, testable and observable...foul needs to be addressed by God's family - kings make kings. You are hurting Christ's image by saying you are like Christ and then doing something ungodly and letting those in the family do it as well.

Sin weighs us down and we can't do what God has called us to do when we are being hindered by our old way of thinking and acting. People will not receive any word from us as a believer when we don't act like one. God can't bless the impure - those who habitually practice will not enter the kingdom. This a heart issue, a faith issue, an obedience issue - from such people withdraw.

The Kingdom of God is within you and you are sent out to the world. In the world God raises you up, tells you to cut the sin our of your life, cut the close relationships out of your life that are living in iniquity so you will have influence for the Kingdom.

John 12:32 KJV

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

<u>Matthew 5:13-17 KJV</u>

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

What is salt used for, especially back then? Remember Jesus is giving them illustrations that they understand easily. The salt is to preserve things. So one of the reasons for the Christian (full of integrity) to be in the world is to preserve the world or conserve. Why? Because the world is headed for self destruction. Why? Because they are disobedient to God's Word, because they don't know it or don't care - these are works of the flesh.

The Bible says if you sow to the flesh what will you reap? You will reap corruption or as the Amplified says it – destruction. So it's not God's wrath being poured out unto the earth, it's the destruction from the seeds that have been sown through the flesh that are coming back as a harvest of destruction.

That is anybody's life who doesn't know Christ, so what we are supposed to do is provide salt and preserve them. Why? Because if they aren't born again they don't know - they don't have the light. We are supposed to be the light.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

We are supposed to direct the way for people (that's why character and integrity are so important).

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The church is designed for the world. We are designed to go hear and learn something in here (the church) and go back out there to our assignments and be the Word - be salt and light.

Now, they (the world) are supposed to see your good works and that's works of God. The people of this world have gifts and you have gifts – but we have gifts that are anointed from God. They have natural gifts but when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you have just got some super added to your natural. Now when you go into those places of your assignment you can perform at a level of excellence (like Daniel) that the world cannot achieve.

<u>Psalm 25:21 AMP</u>

21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for and expect You.

Psalm 26:1 AMP

VINDICATE ME, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity; I have [expectantly] trusted in, leaned on, and relied on the Lord without wavering and I shall not slide.

Psalm 26:11 AMP

11 But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; redeem me and be merciful and gracious to me.

Psalm 112 KJV

- I Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.
- 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.
- 4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.
- 5 A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.
- 6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.
- 8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.
- 9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.
- 10 The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.