THE CHURCH IN A TURBULENT WORLD

By Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Indeed the world we live in is turbulent, filled with disorder and unrest from the standpoint of men.
2. The church of the Lord and the sin-cursed world are diametrically opposite.
3. They stand apart on every moral and spiritual issue.
4. The Purpose and Aims of the people of the World:
   (1) They want more and more materialism and pleasure -- Psa. 17:14
   (2) They are filled with pride and want fullness of bread and abundance of idleness -- Ezek. 16:49 - 50
   (3) They want lifestyles to be what the individual wants -- Judg. 21:25
   (4) They want rules and values that can be broken as easily as they were made.
   (5) They want a freewheeling lifestyle.
   (6) They want to be able to engage in all kinds of sexual immorality and unlawful lust.
   (7) They want to ignore and reject God’s laws on sex and marriage.
5. The Purpose and Aims of the People of God:
   (1) To obey and please God -- Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; John 6:38; I Pet. 4:2
   (2) To seek first the Kingdom of God -- Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-2
   (3) Not to be conformed to this world -- Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:17
   (4) To have a lifestyle that is in harmony with God’s will.
   (5) They believe that marriage is a God-planned relationship for man’s happiness -- Heb. 13:4; Matt. 19:3-9
   (6) They believe God has given laws prohibiting prostitution, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, incest, bestiality, and other sexual uncleanness -- I Cor. 6:18; 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5
6. The Church and the World can NEVER dovetail together.
7. Their purposes and aims and ultimate goals are different.
8. The church is IN the world, but not OF the world -- John 17:14 - 16; I John 2:15
9. This fundamental truth is very difficult to implant in the minds of many brethren -- Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:17
10. The world is too near and dear to too many members of the church today -- James 4:4

I. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD
   1. It means to be in the MINORITY -- Matt. 7:13 - 14; John 17:14 - 16
   2. It means to be UNPOPULAR -- John 15:18 - 19; Matt. 10:22; Matt. 5:10 - 12
   3. It means to be MISUNDERSTOOD and MISREPRESENTED -- Acts 28:22
   4. It means to be constantly ON THE DEFENSIVE -- Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; Acts 17:17

II. THE WORLD CONSTANTLY TRIES TO COMPROMISE THE CHURCH AND ITS PURITY
   1. Thyatira -- Rev. 2:20
   2. Laodicea -- Rev. 3:14 - 19
   3. Corinth -- I Cor. 5:1 - 5
   4. Pergamum -- Rev. 2:14 - 15
4. The membership in churches grows to embrace many people who are NOT CONVERTED to what the gospel teaches the church IS, and to what it is TO DO and BE -- I Cor. 11:19; I John 2:19
5. Because many members are in love with the world, the gospel is DILUTED and FLAVORED to make it appealing to the masses.
   (1) The rigid demands of the gospel are ignored to please the world -- 2 Tim. 4: 2 - 5

III. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO "COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD"
   1. 2 Cor. 6:17
   2. In years gone by, the church made great growth.
   3. This growth did not come by seeking to conform to the world, nor by copying sectarian practices.
   4. The church made great growth by appealing to Bible authority -- I Pet. 4:11
   5. By standing against all error -- Phil. 1:17; Jude 3

IV. THE CHURCH DOES NOT TRY TO PLEASE THE WORLD - IT TRIES TO CONVERT THE WORLD.
   1. Preaching that pleases the world helps no one -- Gal. 1:10; 2 Tim. 2:2 - 4
   2. Conversion separates people from old relationships -- Matt. 10: 34 -37; 2 Cor. 6: 14 - 17; Col. 3: 9 - 10; 2 Cor. 5:17
   4. The gospel is about CHANGE and COMMITMENT.
      (1) Religion, if it is to be worth anything to you, will have to be sacrificed for -- Luke 9:23; Rom. 12:1
      (2) You will have to INVEST your life in it -- Matt. 6:33
   5. Christians serve Christ with SINGleness OF HEART -- Acts 2: 46; Matt. 6:24

CONCLUSION

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