

HOW TO DEAL WITH TROUBLE-MAKERS

Romans 16:17-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has taught the church how they should greet and receive Christians from other churches.
 - 1) Sister Phoebe from Cenchrea
 - 2) Receive her, assist her
 - 3) Priscilla and Aquila, greet them

- B. He teaches them how to greet one another
 - 1) *"Salute one another with an holy kiss"*
 - 2) Exhibit some token of your love

- C. But what of those who do not behave themselves as saints? Do they receive the same greeting?
 - 1) What about those who are busybodies?
 - 2) What of those who sow discord and strife?
 - 3) These are problem people who do not do things for which they are to be excluded.
 - 4) Should they be ignored or is there some plan the church should adopt toward them?

- I. They Should Be Marked And Avoided verse 17
 - A. *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences..."*
 - 1) *"mark"* = σκοπεω = "to look", "watch", "reconnoiter"
"mark", "to take note of"
 - 2) *"cause"* = ποιεω = "to make", "to produce", "to be the means of a thing", "move to do with motion than completion"
 - 3) *"divisions"* = διχοστασια = "dissension", "discord"
 - 4) *"offences"* = σκανδαλον = "a cause of stumbling"
 - 5) "To keep your eye on those who stir up dissensions and put hindrances in your way." Mof.

B. "...contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned"

- 1) "contrary" = παρὰ = "beside", "to lay along side for comparison with the inference of superiority", "I think this is a far better idea"
- 2) "doctrine" = διδασχη = "teaching"
- 3) "learned" = μαθηθῶ = "to learn intellectually from others, or from study or observation"

C. "and avoid them"

- 1) "avoid" = ἐκκλίνω = "to bend out of the regular line, bent outwards or away", "to turn away from", "to shun"
- 2) "Disassociate yourselves from them" TENT
- 3) Instead of greeting these people with a holy kiss, they were to show their displeasure by simply turning out of the way when they saw them.
- 4) They would learn that their behavior is unacceptable to the church.
- 5) Do not call what the Bible teaches, unchristian behavior!

II. Their Character And Motivation *verse 18*

A. "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ,"

- 1) "People like these are not servants of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- 2) The implication is; you must not cause these people to feel like a servant of Jesus Christ. They are not. They are servants of their own self-interests.

B. "but their own belly"

- 1) "But are slaves to their own appetites" TENT
- 2) They serve their own carnal desires.

III. The Method Of These Trouble-Makers

A. *"and by good words..."* vs. 18b

1) χρησολογια = "useful or profitable discourse",
"good natured or kind words"

2) They do not use harsh words of criticism, but they
say kind and sensible things.

B. *"...and fair speeches"*

1) ευλογια = eulogy, commendation. Most of the time
men will over-do such things. It has the conotation
of flattery.

2) "And by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the
hearts of the innocent." ASV

C. *"...deceive the hearts of the simple"*

1) "deceive" = εξαπατω = "from απατω to delude
or deceive, but with prefix εξ out of, therefore
intensive, to delude thoroughly"

2) "hearts" =

3) "simple" = ακακος = "void of evil" These are
people who are unsuspecting, without guile.

IV. The Romans Were A Trusting People verse 19

A. *"For your obedience is come abroad unto all men"*

1) υπακοη = "a hearing attentively and then obeying
as a result of listening closely"

2) They were famous as good listeners

B. *"I am glad therefore on your behalf;"*

1) "glad" = χαρω = "to rejoice, to be delighted"

2) "I rejoice therefore over you" ASV

C. *"but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good..."*

- 1) *"wise"* = σοφος = "clever", "sophisticated"
- 2) *"good"* = αγαθος = "worthy of admiration"
- 3) I want you to be able to discern that which is worthy of admiration.

D. *"...and simple concerning evil"*

- 1) *"simple"* = ακεραλος = "unmixed; hence without guile, artless" = *Matthew 10:16* - *"...harmless as doves."*
- 2) *"evil"* = κακος = "bad", "embracing every form of evil"
- 3) "And innocent in what is evil"

IV. God Would Actively Protect Them *verse 20*

A. *"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly."*

- 1) *"bruise"* = συντριβω = "to rub together, to shatter", "to break in pieces"
- 2) *"shortly"* = εν = in + ταχει = "quickness", "speed"
- 3) *Genesis 3:15* - *"thou shall bruise His heel"*

B. *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."*

- 1) They were to continue their lives
- 2) The Lord would be with them

