



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 15
Nov. 1, 2015

Pastor Phelps
I Pet. 1:13-16

A COMMITMENT TO SEPARATION

Those who bind themselves to the Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church make a commitment to biblical separation as they, “Strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, _____, and comfort . . . sustain its . . . _____ (and) Walk circumspectly in the world.” Such statements are found only in the covenant of a church committed to separation.

Those who poll religious interests in America are coming to one unified and overwhelming conclusion: The Evangelical Church in America has become increasingly worldly! The “Evangelical Church” is a carbon-copy of the secular society.

- Barna studies indicate that 44% of born-again adults and only _____ % of born-again teens believe in “absolute moral truth.”
- _____ % of white evangelicals accept same-sex marriage.
- _____ % of “evangelical leaders” drink alcohol.
- A study by the Evangelical Alliance indicates that _____ % of evangelicals between 18 and 35 have no problem with unmarried men and women living together.

Over sixty years ago, A.W. Tozer wrote, “The Church has sprung a leak and the world is leaking into the church.”

In contrast to the current counsel of the evangelical community, God’s counsel remains, “Be ye holy!” God expects us to maintain a commitment to separation because a worldly church cannot impact a wicked world.

A CASE STUDY

New Testament Christians can learn a lot from Lot! Lot left the company of his Uncle Abraham, choosing to live in Sodom. Lot found a great place to raise cattle and a terrible place to rear his children. Lot loved the Lord (II Pet. 2:6-9), but he left no _____. Lot was spiritually stressed out by Sodom, but failed to personally choose to get out of Sodom.

LOT’S _____. Lot was a wealthy business man, but a poor husband and father.

- He made a career _____ (Gen. 13:12)
- He experienced career _____ (Gen. 14:15).
- He had a career of _____ (Gen. 19:1). Lot benefitted from his associations materially, but brought no benefit to his associates spiritually.
- He saw his career _____ (Gen. 19:24).

LOT’S _____ (Gen. 19:15-16). II Peter tells us that Lot’s soul loathed the conduct of Sodom’s citizenry. Yet, Lot had no moral courage to let go of things that would destroy his family! It is possible for believers to be sick in spirit about the world while living so closely to the world that they lose all that they love most!

A CONSISTENT STRATEGY

God’s plan has always been to use the purity of His people to reach a world that is perishing.

CONSIDER _____ (Gen. 12:2-3; 18:18; Ex. 19:4-6). God chose a people for His name and placed one key requirement upon them (Lev. 11:45; 19:1-2; 20:26). God wanted His people to be a light to those who were perishing in the darkness of sin (Is. 42:6).

CONSIDER _____ (Matt. 4:1-16). The Savior lived a life free from sin. He is the _____ of the world.

CONSIDER THE _____ (Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 2:5,9). God’s Word presents a consistent strategy for reaching the world. In order to reach the world, the church must be distinct from the world!

COMPELLING SCRIPTURES

Those who formed Colonial Hills Baptist Church saw the need to confirm a Covenant committed to separation. They, as we, were brought to a point of conviction by compelling Scriptures like Romans 12:1-2; 16:17; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; II Thessalonians 3:6; I Peter 1:16; I John 2:15-17 and Jude 23. They knew what we must know: You cannot be _____ the world to reach the world.



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