

111 – Beware of Dogma

I want to look with you at the subject of purity tonight. I don't mean moral purity. In the Body of Christ, moral purity ought to go without saying. I'm talking about purity when it comes to our understanding of God's word. What the scriptures say, not what someone's opinions may be of what they say.

Here's what pure means from the Greek lexicon: ["exciting reverence, venerable, sacred, immaculate, clean"](#)

You'll remember that Jesus said, **"beware what you are hearing"** ([Mark 4:24](#)). We also need to beware what we are saying and even what we are writing, whether it's an email or a note on paper. This isn't a fearful thing, but a matter of acting responsibly. We have to keep in mind that we, the ecclesia – the Body of Christ – are displaying the multifarious wisdom of God to the celestials. We are on display, even in the secret places, to spiritual beings who aren't constrained by walls and who can hear whispers and read over our shoulders.

Look at **Ephesians 2:**

1 And you, being dead to your offenses and sins,
2 in which once you walked, in accord with **the eon of this world**, in
accord with **the chief of the jurisdiction of the air**, the spirit now
operating in the sons of [the] stubbornness **[PAUSE – Paul goes
on...]**
3 (among whom we also all behaved ourselves once in the lusts of our
flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the comprehension, and were, in
our nature, children of indignation, even as the rest),
4 yet God, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He
loves us
5 (we also being dead to the offenses and the lusts), vivifies us
together in Christ (in grace are you saved!)
6 and rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials,
in Christ Jesus,
7 that, in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent
riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Everything that is spoken or written goes out into the air. We say, “the ‘air waves.” Who has that jurisdiction – that official governmental authority? Every week – twice a week, we have official meetings inside that jurisdiction but in direct opposition to its interests, because we are about the Father’s business, I pray, and His authority, His sovereignty, His very nature, trumps all others! Praise His holy name!

When I’m working around the house, I sometimes have the radio tuned to Moody radio, because I find the preachers interesting, not because what they say is so profound, but because I find it fascinating that the messages spring out of the same assumptions about what the word of God is.

This morning, I heard a pastor speak to a congregation about the only sin that cannot be forgiven – ever. He even quoted Jesus’ own words in **Matthew 12:31** -

³¹And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. (NIV)

The CLV reads about the same:

"Therefore I am saying to you, Every sin and blasphemy shall be pardoned men, yet the blasphemy of the spirit shall not be pardoned.

That’s where the pastor stopped reading, and he built his entire message on this one verse, not taking into account what preceded or followed it. The thrust of the message was to define what blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is, the fact that it is eternally unforgivable, and what the punishment was. His intention was to prevent the act of blaspheming the Holy Spirit and to keep people from going to hell. Well, that’s great, but in a 30-minute lesson, he failed to correctly cut the word of the truth and kept the fires stoked of common misunderstandings about the nature of God, the fallacy of the so-called “trinity,” heaven and so-called “hell,” the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ and what His death on the cross accomplished, God’s purpose of the eons, justification by faith, conciliation to God through Christ. The guy firmly ensconced his audience into seats formerly occupied by people who were bound to the stringent requirements of Mosaic Law, and, at the

same time made the seats more comfortable of those who have clung to traditional Christian dogma for 2,000 years. No grace, no pardon, no justification, not even redemption. It was as if Jesus Christ had never accomplished His mission to save mankind from sin and out of death into life. Oh, but it sounded soooo good...so familiar, so reaffirming of everything he believes and most Christians believe, because it's all they've ever been taught.

Not only did the *congregation* hear the message, but everywhere that radio *broadcast* aired – listen to that word, “aired,” because it is central to the subject of purity that we’re dealing with tonight.

I used the word DOGMA a moment ago. Let me define it now. This is from [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com):

1. an official system of principles or tenets concerning faith, morals, behavior, etc., as of a church.
2. a specific tenet or doctrine authoritatively laid down, as by a church: *the dogma of papal infallibility*.
3. prescribed doctrine proclaimed as unquestionably true by a particular group
4. a settled or established opinion, belief, or principle.

The Greek word from which it is borrowed means “that which one thinks is true,” and comes ultimately from a Greek word which means “to seem **good**” or “think.” The origin of the word DOGMA acts as a reminder to English speakers that now-established principals and doctrines were once simply thoughts and opinions of ordinary people that gained popularity and eventually found their way into the universal consciousness of society. 20th century American academic Mason Cooley concisely observed that “Under attack, sentiments harden into dogma,” suggesting that dogma is spawned as a defensive act. This idea implies that for every dogma that exists, there is a counter dogma. **With so many “truths” out there, there is sure to be a dogma to conveniently fit every set of beliefs.**

When I copied that definition, I prayed, “*Lord God, let me not be presenting dogma at any time, but rather sound teaching from your word and about your word.*” It’s really important that what we discuss in Jammie Church and Light Up the Scriptures, or in private conversations with one another, that everything bears witness in your spirit. If and when you ever get a check in your spirit, you’re as

accountable as we are to bring it up and get clarification and maybe offer correction. I had to do exactly that today just today with someone, and on Light Up the Scriptures, you've heard me say many times how important it is to fact-check and be certain of *anything* I present, especially when it's my perception, which I'm usually careful to point out.

Miss Tatiana called some weeks ago to ask about the phrase, "God's only Son." The confusion was that if Jesus was God's only Son, how are we also sons and daughters? I showed her that the phrase, "God's only Son," doesn't appear in the scriptures, but she had heard it – and maybe you have too – whether preached from the pulpit, or tossed around in conversation as if it were the Word of God. I was so grateful that Tatiana had **ASKED** – she did not simply accept something as true which is not; instead she cleared up the confusion in her mind! AMEN! Would that **all** Christians were as curious and questioning about so-called mysteries!

We're talking tonight about purity, and Tatiana's spiritual purity was preserved by her curiosity that led to her seeking clarification. Her purity was strengthened by discovering the truth directly from God's pure word.

And that's the point tonight: your purity and mine depends upon hearing and reading the direct word of God. When His word is filtered through another person; when the scriptures are *interpreted* by someone – when someone tells you what a scripture means, whose beliefs are rooted in a tradition – in dogma – rather than in what God's direct inspired word says, you're accountable to seek clarification, and either correction or confirmation. No one with a question should walk around, thinking, "Well, that's just another mystery we'll never understand."

Before God and the Body of Christ, if you ever have a question about anything I say in Light Up the Scriptures, or that Barbara says in Jammie Church (or anyone else for that matter), for Christ's sake, ask! Don't ever think we're too busy to address questions that may be weighing on you. Be like a child, pick up the phone, type an email, but get answers. If we don't have them right away, we'll find them,

or, if it serves you best, we'll steer you to how to find the answer for yourself – or both! Remember the study we did several weeks ago on How to know what God is really saying? I guarantee that if congregations would do what you know how to do, they'd be asking a whole lot of questions, and demanding explanations for preaching and teaching that doesn't match up with the word of God.

The scriptures are God revealing Himself to us, His purpose, and our place in it; and I believe it's really important to the Father that we understand Him as well as we're capable in our frail human forms.

Go back to the pastor and His lesson from [Matthew 12](#). Remember, he stopped reading at [verse 11](#):

³¹And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. (NIV)

But Jesus didn't stop speaking where the pastor left off. He went on in Matthew 12:32:

³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. [\(NIV\)](#)

And whosoever may be saying a word against the Son of Mankind, it will be pardoned him, yet whoever may be saying aught against the holy spirit, it shall not be pardoned him, neither in this eon nor in that which is impending. [\(CLV\)](#)

NASB, Holman, Lexham, Young's Literal, and ESV say about the same thing. KJV and Phillips say "world" instead of age. The Complete Jewish Bible says, "olam hazeh" and the "olam haba." in Hebrew, the first meaning of the word, olam, is, "long duration." EON in the CLV, from the Greek word "aion," is "the longest segment of time known in the scriptures" and its third meaning in at least one other Greek lexicon is "period of time, age." The only reason other meanings are there is because of traditions through which it has been interpreted.

So why is this a big deal? Jesus said, ***“Hallow them by Thy truth. Thy word is truth”*** ([John 17:18](#)). Jesus defined the truth as God’s word, by which He makes us holy.

The word, truth, is defined as, *“actual facts in contrast to the false,”* CLNT-KC, 310. The actual facts are, for anyone who *cares* enough or is *curious* enough to investigate for himself or herself would quickly discover that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven in this eon or the one coming – the text says nothing about an unending unforgivability, let alone mention punishment. And, if we read the context in which Jesus made the statement, we would realize that blaspheming the Holy Spirit is assigning the Lord’s words and His works to the satanic realm.

The Pharisees had just accused Jesus of casting out demons by “Beelzeboul,” or Satan. They had an opinion, based on their twisted, religious beliefs, and they polluted – or threatened to pollute – the purity of Who Jesus was and what He was doing among the people of Israel. That blasphemy wasn’t going to be forgiven – or pardoned – during this present wicked eon that we’ve studied before, from [Galatians 1:4](#), or the one coming up next, which is the millennial eon of Christ’s reign on the Earth that all of Israel has been awaiting since Moses.

Think about this: as members of the Body of Christ, who are saved, forgiven, set free, justified, called children – sons and daughters – of God, Whom we also call Abba, Papa, Daddy, Father...can you imagine that you would be in danger of assigning the words and works of the Lord Jesus Christ to Satan? ***“May it not be coming to that,”*** the Apostle Paul would say. It’s unthinkable – indeed, I suggest it’s impossible for a born again believer in Jesus Christ, to be found guilty of such a thing – and ever of he or she were, by some wild imagining, I believe that His blood covers even what was unforgivable before His death. Notice I said, I believe. So you check it for yourself. I don’t have a direct scripture to point you to, but I have a settled conviction in the complete, redemptive work of Jesus Christ’s shed blood. When Jesus said, ***“It is accomplished”*** ([John 19:30](#)), I believe He meant it, and that nothing was left uncovered by His blood sacrifice. When ***“God was in***

Christ, conciliating the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5): I cannot find the word, “except” in there anywhere. I know we’ve looked at this many times, but look at it again with me:

[\(2 Corinthians 5:15-21\)](#)

15 And He died for the sake of all that those who are living should by no means still be living to themselves, but to the One dying and being roused for their sakes.

16 So that we, from now on, are acquainted with no one according to flesh. Yet even if we have known Christ according to flesh, nevertheless now we know Him so no longer.

17 So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new!

18 Yet all is of God, Who conciliates us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation,

19 how that God was in Christ, conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation.

20 For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ's sake, "Be conciliated to God!"

21 For the One not knowing sin, He makes to be a sin offering for our sakes that we may be becoming God's righteousness in Him.

I didn't know I was going here, but I'm compelled to declare that from what I've learned, God, the Father, wrapped **every** offense up in the Christ, Whom He made to be a sin offering so that, Paul declared, *"we may be becoming God's OWN righteousness in Him, that is IN the CHRIST."* No offense, no sin was left out, including the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit! The key to it all is found in two words, "IN CHRIST." It is in Him that this all-encompassing pardon, justification, and being made God's own righteousness, takes place. The word of the conciliation – the ending of our estrangement from God by His sovereign act, through Christ's blood sacrifice, and later through His resurrection out from among the dead, covers any and all sin for all time.

[\(Hebrews 7:25-27\)](#)

25 Whence, also, He is able to save to the uttermost those coming to God through Him, always being alive to be pleading for their sake.

26 For such a Chief Priest also became us, benign, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and coming to be higher than those of the heavens,

27 Who has no necessity daily, even as the chief priests, to be offering up sacrifices previously for their own sins, thereupon for those of the people, for this He does once for all time, offering up Himself.

It appears to me that the scriptures declare that if anyone will come to Jesus Christ and thereby become a child of Almighty God – located IN CHRIST – as a result, even what was once unforgivable throughout two eons is forgiven. Outside of Christ, it isn't. It was never unforgiveable forever, you understand. The teaching of an eternal punishment for unbelievers is one of the greatest travesties of Christian tradition, and – this is now my opinion, mind you – it has bound Christians for 2,000 years in a dullness of intellect, and has practically killed their intellectual honesty if not their curiosity, much like what happened to the Jews over a period of more than 500 years between Malachi and the advent of Jesus Christ on the Earth.

Satan's purposes are to distract, detour, delay, and destroy. His tools are lies, deceit and treachery. He's easy to spot when you know what His fingerprints look like. They include confusion, contention, and division, among others. When you see or hear someone pound the pulpit, telling the Body of Christ assembled what the word of God says, ask yourself the four questions we learned in February:

1. When was it written; i.e., what is the historical context?
2. To whom, for whom, or about whom was it written?
3. What is the purpose for inclusion in scripture; i.e., what can we learn from this?
4. What do the words mean (from the original language), and how are they put together?

When you see unquestioning agreement, based on interpretations and not actual language, which results in anyone being left out or thrown out of God's presence for eternity, it raises questions that when you find the answers readily available to

you, produces a dogged determination to “***present yourself to God, qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly cutting the word of the truth***” ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

There’s no problem in hearing what others are teaching and preaching, so long as you are rooted in the word so solidly that anything that doesn’t line up you can spot in a minute and sometime, when God puts someone in your path Who wants to know god but doesn’t get the Christian picture of Him, you’ll be able to bring them to the Jesus and to the Father of the scriptures and see the magnificence of what they have accomplished together.

We are accountable to get clarity when we don’t have it or when we lose it. God is not a God of confusion, Satan is. God’s word is straight and true; Satan’s word is truth that is twisted – he knows the truth, but he twists it into a lie in order to deceive.