

Losing The Inheritance Of Christ's Kingdom

- I. The church of Jesus Christ is God's kingdom in this world. **MAT 16:18-19.**
- A. It is a spiritual kingdom ruled by the Holy Spirit's operation in the heart and by His revelation to the apostles of Jesus Christ. **LUK 17:20-21; JOH 14:15-17 c/w 1JO 4:6.**
 - B. It has an inheritance of spiritual wisdom and understanding, spiritual comfort, love, peace, joy and fellowship with God, conformity to the perfect image of Jesus Christ, a state dinner honoring its Living Head (the Lord's Supper), and hope for a deliverance unto a perfected state when the King returns. **1CO 15:23-24.**
 - C. It has laws of prescriptive and proscriptive nature: This DO and This FORBID.
 - 1. Its body of law is Christ's New Testament/Covenant, ratified by His blood. **1CO 11:24-25.**
 - 2. Many laws from the Old Testament are also in the New Testament but we are not under law to Moses, but to Christ. **1CO 9:21.**
 - D. Disobedience to Christ's Laws by His Spirit jeopardizes a believer's spiritual inheritance.
 - 1. The jeopardy begins within by quenching/grieving the Spirit. **EPH 4:30; 1TH 5:19.**
 - 2. If this quenching/grieving of the Spirit is not arrested by humble repentance, the Spirit begins to withdraw His influence in the soul, turning one over to further delusion and sin's captivity. **GAL 5:17-18 c/w ROM 8:5-6; 2TI 2:24-26.**
 - 3. Before any public action of the church to discipline a known offender, God has already passed judgment on such, letting sin take over. One may yet be in the church but not even cognizant of the fact that the Lord has departed from him. c/w **JDG 16:20.**
 - 4. A church member can squander much of his spiritual inheritance before God's justice catches up with him bringing him to public exposure and loss of membership and a place at Christ's table. **1CO 4:5; 5:1-13.**
 - a. At that point, one is delivered from Christ's kingdom of spiritual light unto Satan's kingdom of spiritual darkness that he might hopefully learn repentance. **1CO 5:4-5 c/w 1TI 1:19-20.**
 - b. Only when one is utterly ashamed of his rebellious attitude and conduct will the possibility of spiritual healing and recovery be possible. **JOB 42:6; LUK 15:18-19; PSA 51:3-12.**
 - c. NOTE: Pride not only goes before destruction (**PRO 16:18**), it holds one in destruction.
- II. God required Israel to have a complete review of the Law every seven years. **DEU 31:9-13.**
- A. Human nature, changing faces and circumstances, etc. tend to make us forget the law. The gospel only saves those who remember its laws. **1CO 15:1-2 c/w JAM 1:25.**
 - B. It is still a good work of wisdom to remind God's people of the laws of their kingdom. **2PE 1:12-15; 3:1; 1CO 4:17; JUDE 1:5.**
 - C. Saints have the Holy Spirit, His law-book and every positive incentive to personally acquaint themselves with the knowledge of right and wrong so they can concur with **PSA 119:109, 153.**
 - D. This is definitely an area where you can save yourselves. **1TI 4:16.**
- III. Following is an alphabetical list of defined sins which Christ forbids in His kingdom and which imperil one's spiritual inheritance and place in His kingdom.

Abusers of selves with mankind (1CO 6:9).

Specifically homosexuality (sodomy) or lesbianism. See **LEV 18:22; ROM 1:26-27; 1TI 1:9-10.**

Adultery (1CO 6:9; GAL 5:19).

“Violation of the marriage bed; the voluntary sexual intercourse of a married person with one of the opposite sex, whether unmarried, or married to another.” See **LEV 20:10; HEB 13:4.**

Backbite (ROM 1:30).

“To detract from the character of, to slander, traduce, speak ill of: a person absent.”

Slander: The utterance or dissemination of false statements or reports concerning a person, or malicious misrepresentation of his actions, in order to defame or injure him; calumny, defamation.

NOTE: Should be countered by an angry countenance (**PRO 25:23**).

Blasphemy (2TI 3:2).

“Profane speaking of God or sacred things; impious irreverence.” See **2KI 18:32-35 c/w 19:3.**

Boaster (2TI 3:2).

“To speak vaingloriously, extol oneself; to vaunt, brag, to brag of, about, glory in.” See also Pride.

Covenantbreaker (ROM 1:31).

Covenant: A mutual agreement between two or more persons to do or refrain from doing certain acts; a compact, contract, bargains, sometimes the undertaking, pledge, or promise of one of the parties.

For example, consider King Saul's error against the Gibeonites (**JOS 9 c/w 2SAM 21:1-2**), or Laban's treachery with Jacob. **GEN 29:18-25; 31:41.**

Marital infidelity even in the heart is a breach of the covenant of marriage. **JOB 31:1; MAT 5:28-29.**

Covetous (ROM 1:29; 1CO 5:11; 6:10; 2TI 3:2).

“Culpably or inordinately desirous of gaining wealth or possessions; esp. of that which belongs to another or to which one has no right; greedy, grasping, avaricious.”

NOTE: Covetousness is a form of idolatry (**COL 3:5**). The negative sense of covetousness is obviously that which is censured. There is godly coveting (**1CO 12:31; 14:39**).

Debate (ROM 1:29).

“Strife, contention, dissension, quarrelling, wrangling; a quarrel.”

NOTE: There is a positive aspect to debate (**PRO 25:9; ACT 15:2, 7; 19:9**) and contention (**JUDE 1:3**). Differentiate between debating *to discover* truth and debating *against* the truth (**2TI 3:8 c/w PRO 22:10**) or debating solely out of a desire to gender strife (**PRO 26:21**).

Deceit (ROM 1:29).

“The action or practice of deceiving; concealment of the truth in order to mislead; deception, fraud,

cheating, false dealing.” See **2CO 11:3 c/w 1TI 2:14; MAT 24:11; EPH 4:14.**

NOTE: “...in order to...” Intent must be proven in a charge of deceit. An innocent error which misleads others may be corrected without being subject to prosecution (**ACT 18:25-26**). An honest man, when faced with valid information that refutes his position, will either change his position or cease from being an honest man.

Despisers of those that are good (**2TI 3:3**). For example, see **JOH 10:32; JAM 2:1-6.**

Despiteful (**ROM 1:30**).

“Contemptuous; insulting; opprobrious.”

Contempt: The action of contemning or despising; the holding or treating as of little account, or as vile and worthless; the mental attitude in which a thing is so considered.

For example, see **MAL 1:12-13; 2CO 10:10; HEB 10:29.**

Disobedience to parents (**ROM 1:30; 2TI 3:2**).

NOTE: Circumstances would have to be taken into consideration here: the age of the child (youth or an adult), status of the child (living with parents or not, married or unmarried) or whether obedience to a parent would be a flagrant sin.

Drunkenness, drunkard (**1CO 5:11; 6:10; GAL 5:21**).

Drunkenness: The state of being drunk; intoxication; the habit of being drunken or addicted to excessive drinking.

Drunk: That has drunk intoxicating liquor to an extent which affects self-control; intoxicated, inebriated; overcome by alcoholic liquor.

Drunkard: One addicted to drinking; one who habitually drinks to excess; an inebriate, a sot.

See **GEN 9:21; 1SAM 1:13-14; ACT 2:13-15.**

NOTE: It is drinking alcohol *in excess* that is condemned (**EPH 5:18**). Moderate consumption is allowed. Also, the “...and such like” clause of **GAL 5:21** would forbid intoxication by (recreational) drug use.

Intoxicated: The action of poisoning; administration of poison; killing by poison; the state of being poisoned; an instance of this. *Obs. exc. Med. 2*. The action of rendering stupid, insensible, or disordered in intellect, with a drug or alcoholic liquor; the making drunk or inebriated; the condition of being so stupefied or disordered.

Effeminate (**1CO 6:9**).

“Of persons: That has become like a woman: a. Womanish, unmanly, enervated, feeble; self-indulgent, voluptuous; unbecomingly delicate or over-refined.” See **JER 51:30**. Also note that apparel may enter into this area, since God has required distinctions between men and women (**DEU 22:5**).

Emulation (**GAL 5:20**).

“The endeavour to equal or surpass others in any achievement or quality; also, the desire or ambition to

equal or excel.”

NOTE: There is a positive aspect to emulation (**ROM 11:14**). The desire or ambition to excel is the very formula for success in life since it is the best way for one’s product or service to be favored. Emulation that is born of envy, though, is not positive advancement but pride at work.

Envy (**ROM 1:29; GAL 5:21**).

“(v.) To feel displeasure and ill-will at the superiority of (another person) in happiness, success, reputation, or the possession of anything desirable; to regard with discontent another's possession of (some superior advantage which one would like to have for oneself).”

“(sb.) Malignant or hostile feeling, ill-will, malice, enmity.”

Consider the gainsaying of Korah and company in grasping for parity with Moses (**NUM 16 c/w PSA 106:16-17**), and the accounts of Joseph and Christ (**MAR 15:10; ACT 7:9**).

Extortion (**1CO 5:10-11; 6:10**).

“The action of extorting or wresting anything, esp. money, from a person by force or by undue exercise of authority or power; an instance of this; an act of illegal exaction.”

Extort: To obtain from a reluctant person by violence, torture, intimidation, or abuse of legal or official authority, or (in weaker sense) by importunity, overwhelming arguments, or any powerful influence.

See **1SAM 2:16; MAT 23:14, 25**.

False accuser (**2TI 3:3**).

NOTE: This would censure anyone who made an unfounded accusation against another. It would apply to anyone who leveled a charge against a brother in the court of the church but was unable to substantiate his charge with scripture or evidence.

Fierce (**2TI 3:3**).

“Of formidably violent and intractable temper, like a wild beast; vehement and merciless in anger or hostility.”

Consider the wild man of the Gadarenes/Gergesenes whose fierceness was associated with him being not in his right mind (**MAT 8:28 c/w MAR 5:15**). Christ can set men free from both conditions.

Filthiness, foolish talking, jestings which are not convenient (**EPH 5:4**).

NOTE: This would censure depraved behavior that is clearly identified as sin in Scripture and speech which is blatantly inappropriate (*not convenient*). Note, though, that not all speech like jesting is inappropriate: Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal and was blessed for it (**1KI 18:27**).

Fornication (**ROM 1:29; 1CO 5:11; 6:9; GAL 5:19**).

“Voluntary sexual intercourse between a man (in restricted use, an unmarried man) and an unmarried woman. In Scripture extended to adultery.”

NOTE: This can include such sexual sins as incest (**1CO 5:1**) and potentially other forms of sexual uncleanness (e.g., bestiality, necrophilia) by virtue of the phrase, "...and such like..." in **GAL 5:21**.

Hatred (**GAL 5:20**).

"To hold in strong dislike; to detest; to bear malice to. The opposite of to love."
Consider **LEV 19:17; 1JO 3:15; 2TI 3:3**.

NOTE: Not all hatred is wrong (**PSA 97:10; PSA 119:104, 128; PRO 8:13**).

Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof (**2TI 3:5**).

NOTE: This would censure someone who clearly only has a vain shew of piety: religion without repentance and reformation (c/w **MAT 23:5-7, 14, 27-28**).

Heady (**2TI 3:4**).

"Headlong, precipitate, impetuous, violent; passionate; headstrong; 'hurried on with passion.'"

Heresy (**GAL 5:20**).

"Theological or religious opinion or doctrine contrary to the 'catholic' or orthodox doctrine of the Christian Church, or by extension, to that of any church, creed or religious system, considered as orthodox."

NOTE: The creed of a true Christian church is to measure all things by the doctrine of the Holy Scriptures; therefore anything which is at odds with Scripture in such a church would be heresy. Heretics are allowed two admonitions before action must be taken by the church (**TIT 3:10**).

Highminded (**2TI 3:4**)

"Having or characterized by a haughty, proud or arrogant spirit."

Idolatry (**1CO 5:11; 6:9; GAL 5:20**).

"1. The worship of idols or images 'made with hands'; more generally, the paying or offering of divine honours to any created object. 2. Immoderate attachment to or veneration for any person or thing; admiration savouring of adoration."

NOTE: This second sense has kinship to *inordinate affection, concupiscence* (**COL 3:5**).

Implacable (**ROM 1:31**).

"That cannot be appeased, irreconcilable; inexorable: of persons, feelings, etc." See **LUK 7:31-35**.

Incontinent (**2TI 3:3**).

"Not continent; wanting in self-restraint: chiefly with reference to sexual appetite."

Inventors of evil things (**ROM 1:30**).

This could include idolatry and its adjuncts (**PSA 106:28-29, 38-39**) or evil devices, schemes, vices, practices or principles, etc. Any invention designed to exploit sinful tendencies would be included here.

Lascivious(ness) (**GAL 5:19**).

“Inclined to lust; lewd, wanton.”

Wanton: Undisciplined, ungoverned.

NOTE: There is a difference between losing an occasional battle to lust and those “Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin...” (2PE 2:14), a dangerous tunnel to enter (EPH 4:19).

Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (2TI 3:4).

NOTE: This could censure someone who is exposed as having no practical spirituality but only a life devoted to personal pleasure. It may apply to someone who persistently avoids church assemblies so he can pursue his own pleasures. Babylon was “...given to pleasures... (ISA 47:8), a total subjection.

Malicious(ness) (ROM 1:29).

“Of persons, their dispositions, etc., Given to malice; addicted to sentiments or acts of ill-will.”

Malignity (ROM 1:29).

“Wicked and deep-rooted ill-will or hatred; intense and persistent desire to cause suffering to another person; propensity to this feeling.”

NOTE: King Saul's attitude towards David was an example of this.

Murder (ROM 1:29; GAL 5:21).

“The most heinous kind of criminal homicide; also, an instance of this. In English (also Sc. and U.S.) Law, defined as the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought; often more explicitly wilful murder.”

NOTE: Jesus clarifies “Thou shalt not kill” (EXO 20:13) is “Thou shalt do no murder” (MAT 19:18).

Not providing for one's own (1TI 5:8).

This is apostasy and would censure someone who wilfully refuses to supply for their household.

Proud (ROM 1:30; 2TI 3:2).

“Having or cherishing a high or lofty opinion of oneself; valuing oneself highly on account of one's position, rank, attainments, possessions, etc. Usually in a bad sense: Disposed to take an attitude of superiority to and contempt for others, arrogant, haughty, overweening, supercilious.”

NOTE: This was Satan's prime fault (1TI 3:6). Similar to highminded (2TI 3:4).

Rail(ing) (1CO 5:11; 6:9).

“To utter abusive language.” See 1SAM 25:10-11, 14; MAR 15:29-30; LUK 23:39. c/w reviling.

Rebellion (1SAM 15:23 c/w GAL 5:20).

“Organized armed resistance to the ruler or government of one's country, insurrection, revolt. 2. Open or determined defiance of, or resistance to any authority or controlling power.”

NOTE: There is a difference between challenging/resisting civil government where it has perverted or abandoned its God-ordained duties and holding it accountable to its own charter (1PE 2:13-14 c/w ACT

5:29) and the utter rejection/defiance of government (**2PE 2:10**).

NOTE: Civil government is not the only type of societal government. The church of Jesus Christ has a code of law (the N.T.) given by its King to govern it. Rebelling against that code and its just administration by its ministers (**HEB 13:7, 17**) is a dangerous path.

NOTE: Since witchcraft merits church exclusion (**GAL 5:20**) and since in God's eyes “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...” (**1SAM 15:23**), the church should deal with rebellion as it would with witchcraft.