

## *A Loss of Distinctiveness*

### *1 Corinthians 5*

*“Political correctness and the Church’s desire for acceptance have led to a deterioration in the things that make Christianity distinct. The acquiescence of Darwinism and the desire to sync evolution with Genesis 1 are gaining ground within Christian academia and the Church. Scripture is allegorized while unproven scientific theory is lionized. It is better to go with the flow than to be laughed at and mocked as being foolish and old-fashioned.*

*The deterioration of the Church’s distinctiveness is also seen in the watering down of its moral standards. Denomination after denomination has collapsed under the pressure of the LGBT agenda. Heterosexual permissiveness and promiscuity have become the rule rather than the exception.*

*Many churches are no longer about searchers for Jesus; instead, they offer a comfortable, happy place to semi-believers who are looking for good people who like to do good things. Good people doing good things? How can there possibly be anything wrong with that?*

*Evangelical Christianity’s loss of distinctiveness opens the door for a general meld into the squishy theological equivalency of ecumenism. As it is absorbed into the culture, the Church will cease to be a light in the darkness. The goal of the global track to create one religion led by one religious leader will be that much closer to fulfillment.”*  
(The Last Hour—Amir Tsarfati)

- I. God called us out of this world to be distinct from it, which means that we are not to allow its darkness to cause us to compromise our faith. The world might not care, but God does. His will is that we conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (**Phil. 1:27**) for the sake of his church and for the sake of those he is drawing unto salvation.

1 Thess. 4:1-8

Col. 3:5-7

Eph. 5:3-13

**1 Peter 2:9** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

- II. Jesus expects his church to make every effort to remain morally pure and healthy as his representative here on earth. A church that is not willing to keep itself this way is full of pride and is ignorant and blind toward what it means to be God's temple. On the other hand, a church that makes every effort to honor God's temple, will do what is necessary to make sure that **no one** influences it away from the holiness we've been called to.

1 Cor. 5:1-5

Lev. 18:8

1 Cor. 3:16-17

Matt. 18:15-17

Gal. 6:1

*"Maybe the most significant thing we can learn from such a text is how far many of us are removed from the view of the church in which the dynamic of the Spirit was so real that exclusion could be a genuinely redemptive action." Fee*

**Gal. 5:24** *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh and its passions and desires.*

- III. A church that is unwilling to deal with infectious sin is in danger of being contaminated by that sin. Like a virus, it will infect the whole body, making it sick and weak spiritually because it no longer lives in the sincerity and truth of God's Word. The only way for it to get spiritually healthy again is for it to be willing to eradicate the malice and wickedness that has infiltrated it, no matter how unpopular that might be.

1 Cor. 5:6-12

Mark 8:15

2 Cor. 5:17