

Cornerstone Church

April 23, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Introduction:

Main Point: Church families are designed to be effective allies to individuals in helping them stave off the compromising influences of a hostile world and remaining true to Jesus.

- Our part to make them (church families) work that way is to 1) live as if Jesus will judge every deed, 2) love each other earnestly, 3) be hospitable, 4) exercise our spiritual gifts reverently.
- When we do this so well that the world around us sees our remarkable passion to help one another, God will be magnified.

The setting of 1 Peter 4:7-11:

1. This world is not our friend and it wants to pull us

into its corrupting influences. - 1 Peter 2:11-12 [11]

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (ESV)

1 John 2:15-17 [15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

How does the world pull us in?

- When Satan successfully compromises us we become increasingly less effective “world-changers” and we are side-lined from the battle.

- Therefore, to avoid compromise with the world,

2. We need to be consciously aware that the next big event on God's redemption calendar is Judgment Day. - **The end of all things is at hand;**
 - In OT times the next big thing on God's redemption calendar was the First Coming of the Messiah. For those looking forward to that coming, it was all about grace. The cross = grace. The good news= grace. The healings = grace. The Kingdom being present = grace.
 - In NT times the next big thing on God's redemption calendar is the Second Coming of the Messiah. For those looking forward to the coming,

it is all about truth and will include 1) review, 2) reward, and 3) rescue. For those not looking forward to that coming, it is all about JUSTICE!

- And because there is a Judgment Day Coming when we will be evaluated face to face with our Savior, we need to be ready for that day by living holy lives now. **therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.**
 - Controlling our passions for _____ and being sober minded (clear headed about the emptiness of this world's false promises) will enable us to pray effectively. You can't pray if your heart is in rebellion.
 - And the opposite: Praying diligently will keep you from straying away from your King. **Luke 21:34-36 [34] "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. [35] For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. [36] But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (ESV)**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

- The speaking gifts are to be used reverently as if God Himself is speaking through the speaker. **whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God;** Romans 12:3-8 Prophecy, teaching, exhortation
- The serving gifts are to be used in God's strength, not our own - **whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—** Romans 12 service, generosity, leading, acts of mercy

3. And while preparing for that Judgment Day and fighting the fight of faith to ward off compromises with the world we have strength in numbers. The church is designed to be a battle group fighting together.

- What are some things that will tear a battle unit apart and what will keep them fighting-strong?
 1. **Loving one another** will strengthen the bond, while criticizing one another and biting one another will tear that bond apart. So what does it mean to let love cover a multitude of sins?
 2. **Showing hospitality** to one another.
 3. **Serving One Another** by using our God-given gifts. -

4. And when a church does all this very well, the world will know that God is in their midst.