



12/3/2023 PM

Introduction:

I. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO PURSUE SANCTIFICATION (vs. 20-21)

A. Cleansed people are sanctified. (vs. 20-21a)

“now in a large house there are...vessels to honor and some to dishonor”

“if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified”

Romans 9:21-23a

B. Cleansed people are useful to the Master. (vs. 21b)

“a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master”

II Timothy 4:11 (Mark) & Philemon 11 (Onesimus)

C. Cleansed people are prepared for every good work. (vs. 21c)

“a vessel for honor, sanctified...prepared for every good work”

Philippians 1:6
II Timothy 3:16-17

II. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO PURSUE SEXUAL PURITY (vs. 22)

A. It's important what you run from.

“flee from youthful lusts”

I Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; James 4:7

B. It's important what you run to.

“pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace”

I Timothy 6:6-11

C. It's important who you run with.

“with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart”

NT analogies and metaphors:

Paul in the PE

- > soldier (2:3-4)
- > athlete (2:5)
- > farmer (2:6)
- > worker (2:15)
- > vessel (2:20-21)

Paul elsewhere:

- > steward (I Cor. 4:1-2)
- > ambassador (II Cor. 5:20)

Jesus:

- > fisherman (Matt. 4:19)
- > salt (Matt. 5:13)
- > light (Matt. 5:14-16)
- > branch (John 15:5)

Peter:

- > living stone (I Pet. 2:5)
- > priest (I Pet. 2: 5, 9-10)
- > sojourner (I Pet. 2:11)

III. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO PURSUE SERVICE (vs. 23-26)

A. You must know when to shut your mouth.

“refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels”

“the Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all”

B. You must know when to open your mouth.

“able to teach”

“patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition”

I Timothy 1:3-5

C. You must know when to open your arms.

“if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth”

I Thessalonians 2:7

“and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will”

Conclusion:

- 1) The visible church is always going to be a messy place, filled with people of a variety of spiritual commitment.
- 2) Anything or anyone who diminishes my readiness to obey God is sin for me.
- 3) Being kind or patient with people does not mean we must agree with their ideas and opinions.