

Christ Apostolic Miracle Ministry Sunday School

Topic: It is time to discipline yourself – Part 1

Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:23-30

Introduction

Today, the situation of the world is unpredictable and dangerous; because people have given their mouths to evil, and their tongues frames deceits. Propaganda and alternative truth are reigning everywhere; in a manner that is making people talk only about violences and nothing, but lies. Vile language is even common among the leaders, and people don't hesitate to tell lies. Inasmuch as uncertainty is rampant throughout the world, don't you think it is time to discipline yourself; so that you will not perish with the world? The Bible attested to this fact by saying, "you give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit." **Psalm 50:19**. Discipline yourself by abstaining from every form of immorality; in order for God will be delighted in you.

You must not hate people who challenge injustice that is prevalent in the world; but support and encourage them. Do not follow the way of the unbelievers by detesting those who speak with integrity and honesty. Never bully right-living people, or take bribes; instead, discipline yourself and refrain from vices. The scripture corroborated this fact by saying, "They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly." **Amos 5:10**. You must discipline yourself by making justice and honesty your watchword.

Since this world is inverted spiritually, and people are rejecting the correction of the Almighty God their Creator, don't you think you should be an exemption? Countless people throughout the globe are spurning the statutes of the Lord, and paying no attention to His warnings. Humans are so stubborn to the extent that they are not ready to accept the commands of their Maker, and they despise all His corrections; according to the scripture which says, "They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke." **Proverbs**

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1:30. Do not forget that carelessness kills, and complacency is murder; so, discipline yourself in order not pass away untimely.

Do not ignore God or refuse to listen to the Lord. Never follow the multitude to do evil; God is calling you now to discipline yourself, and return to Him. So, do not refuse to answer your Maker, but accept the offer of the merciful hand that He stretched out to you. Honor the invitation that God extended to you today before it is late; so, do not ignore Him or refuse to listen to the Supreme Being; according to the Bible passage which says, "Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded." **Proverbs 1:24.** You must keep yourself holy and turn to God, if you want to inherit the kingdom of heaven.

It is inevitable for you to turn and pay attention to the correction of the Lord; so that He can give you the necessities of life. If you want God to pour His Spirit on you; listen as He corrects you. One of the ways to be granted the revelation of the words of God is to respond to His warning. The Bible testified to this fact by saying, "Turn at My rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make My words known to you." **Proverbs 1:23.** Discipline yourself, and do not turn a deaf ear to the rebuke of God. If you do not ignore your Maker, but give heed to His reproof; knowledge and wisdom will be your portion.

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Topic: It is time to discipline yourself – Part 2

Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:23-30

Do good and rebuke evil doers

You need to discipline yourself by stop doing what is wrong, and purify yourself with the Blood of the Lamb. Inasmuch as God abhors filthy deeds; abstain from every form of evil, and keep yourself holy. Quit your absurd pretense intended to create a respectable appearance and your trivial religious games. You must discipline yourself by learning to do what is good at all times. It is your duty to do what is right and penalize those who hurt others. One of the ways to prove that you are a disciplinarian is to seek justice for the oppressed; assist the poor/needly and defend the rights of the less privileged. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, “Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.” **Isaiah 1:17**. The only way for you to be recognized by the heavens is to discipline yourself by cleaning up your nefarious acts, and sweep your life clean of your evildoings.

Sensible people learn from corrections: A rebuke makes more of an impression on anyone who understands. Any sensible person will accept correction, but you cannot beat sense into a fool. If reproof cuts into your perception, it only proves that you are wise; because smart people learn more from a single correction. A simple way to prove that you are an intelligent person is to learn from a warning; according to the scripture which says, “Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.” **Proverbs 17:10**. If a rebuke is more effective on you than lashes; it proves that you have good/common sense.

Therefore, anyone who ignores discipline despises himself or herself. If you neglect correction, it means you hate yourself; whereas, if you heed reproof, it means you will grow in wisdom. Whoever spurns discipline, detest himself or herself, but anyone who listens to

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corrections gains understanding. Do not forget that you only hurt yourself by rejecting instruction, but it makes good sense to accept it. You need to realize that an undisciplined, self-willed life is puny; whereas an obedient, God-willed life is spacious; according to the Bible passage which says, “He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.” **Proverbs 15:32**. Do not neglect correction, or ignore discipline; if you love yourself.

Correct yourself first

It must be noted that a public correction is better than hidden love. Anyone that openly corrects you wants the best for you, and such a person does not want you to stray. Therefore, open criticism is better than unexpressed love; according to the Book of Proverbs which says, “Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed.” **Proverbs 27:5**. Though a spoken reprimand is better than approval that is never expressed; however, you need to correct yourself first, before you correct others.

Hypocrites don't notice their own mistakes: Whoever wants to discipline other people must first discipline himself or herself; because you must refrain from doing whatever that you intend to correct others. If you want to correct the adulterers and fornicators that are abound in the world today; then you must not be unchaste in action, or in thoughts. Before you castigate the thieves, or robbers; you need to abstain from stealing. Prior to admonishing people for corruption, make sure that you are not embezzling other people's money, or assets. Do not appropriate to your own use, what belongs to your community, or nation; if you want to rebuke the corrupt leaders. It is good to instruct and correct others; but you must first teach and discipline yourself; according to the Book of Romans which says, “You, therefore, who teach another, do you teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?” **Romans 2:21-22**. It is inevitable for you to stop deceiving yourself.

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Nowadays, people are quick to see the minor errors committed by others; but they do not notice or pay attention to their own major and perilous mistakes. These hypocrites must first discipline and correct themselves; before rebuking and teaching others. Jesus mentioned this in the Book of Matthew by saying “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. **Matthew 7:3-5**. From the passages, it can be deduced that unless you first correct and discipline yourself; if you rebuke and instruct others, you are a hypocrite.

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Topic: It is time to discipline yourself – Part 3

Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:23-30

Leading by example

Anyone who wants to lead must be virtuous, and such a person must exhibit leadership style, whereby he/she models the behavior he/she wants to see in others. Such a leader must guide others through their behaviors, and inspire them to conduct themselves as himself/herself. Leading by example is to let your actions and not your words do the talking.

Moses' father-in-law advised him to teach the leaders of Israel the regulations and the instructions of the Lord, and show them what they must do to live right; in order to assist him to judge the people of Israel. The job of good leaders is to instill the fear of God, with integrity and principle of godly living in others; according to the scripture which says, "And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk, and the work they must do." **Exodus 18:20**. Do not forget that leading by example is showing others how to conduct their lives in a godly manner.

Leading by example is instructing others in the good and right way. Whoever ceases to teach others how to live right is not leading by example, and such a person is disobedient. Samuel stated this fact by saying, "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way." **1 Samuel 12:23**. Failure to support others with prayers, or continue teaching them what is good and right; signifies that you are not leading by example.

For this reason, do not add to the instructions of the Lord, or twist it to suit your own purpose; else you will become a liar. If you change the words of the Lord; He will correct you and prove that you are a deceiver, instead of a leader. Adding anything to the words of the

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Lord, or deducting from them will disqualify you from being a godly leader who leads by example; according to the Bible passage which says, “Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” **Proverbs 30:6.**

Corrupt leaders are causing havoc in the world: Today, the situation of the world is unpredictable and dangerous due to the activities of the corrupt leaders. Inasmuch as godly leaders who lead by example are dwindling on earth; the state of affairs in the world have become precarious. Insecurity and uncertainty are prevalent in the world, because of corruption of the leaders. These ungodly leaders are leading their nations down the wrong path, and their people are confused.

The corrupt leaders are misleading their people and causing them to err. People who are guided by these dishonest leaders will be destroyed; so, do not follow them, if you don't want to get lost and confused. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, “For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed.” **Isaiah 9:16.** Investigate the leaders that you will make your role model; else, you will be led down the path of destruction. Since we are at the end-time; be vigilant, so that you will not be misled; in a manner that can make you miss the kingdom of heaven.

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Topic: It is time to discipline yourself – Part 4

Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:23-30

Teachers must be disciplined

The teachers/preachers must discipline themselves before training others to obey the statutes of the Lord. The teachers must be able to inculcate good conduct in others, by explaining to them the punishment involved in committing atrocities and failure to obey the commands of Almighty God. They must lay good examples that are worthy to be emulated by the whole Christendom.

Though, it is good and profitable to be a teacher; but it comes with commitment. Any teacher who fails to perform his/her duty is not worthy; until such a person repents, and performs his/her responsibility with humility. It must be noted that the moral obligation of any teacher is to serve others rather than be served; and the goal of the teachers is to turn humanity to their Maker using correction with humility.

The primary concern of the teachers must be holiness, obedience and serving others. Jesus Christ testified to this fact by saying “You call Me Teacher, and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” **John 13:13-14**, The teachers are under obligation to train others to keep themselves holy, and form an everlasting relationship with Almighty God their Creator.

Sound doctrine is waning in the world: We are at the end time; so, people cannot endure and tolerate sound doctrine and accurate instruction that challenges them with God’s truth. Inasmuch as people are craving for something pleasing and gratifying; most churches have accumulated teachers that are chosen to satisfy their desires, and support the errors they hold.

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Today, people in the world are not listening to good teaching; instead, they are looking for teachers/preachers who will please them by telling them what they want to hear. Are they preaching/teaching the truth of God or man-made fictions in your church? Are you one of the people who turned their backs on the truth and chased mirages? Do you prefer solid teaching, or catchy opinions that tickle your fancy?

Are you attending church services to cater for your passion, or to hear accurate teaching? The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." **2 Timothy 4:3-4.**

You must not reject the truth and chase after myths; if you want to inherit the kingdom of heaven. It is time for you to listen to the truth of God, and give no attention to legends, or eagerly turn aside to senseless stories; in order not to miss the Glorious Home. To prove that you are a Beloved and please God; do what the Bible says, and cease following misguided ideas of your teachers.

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Topic: It is time to discipline yourself – Part 5

Bible Reading: Proverbs 1:23-30

Many teachers lack understanding

Today, many people in the world want to be teachers; even though they do not understand the terms they are using, or the subjects about which they are making confident declarations. Most of the teachers in the churches do not know what they are talking about, even though they think they do. Numerous people who set themselves up as experts on religious issues do not have the remotest idea of what they are holding forth with imposing eloquence; according to the scripture which says, “desiring to be teachers of law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.” **1 Timothy 1:7**. Do you think the teachers in your church understand what they are making dogmatic assertions? Seek the truth, and do not be misled by the strenuous affirmation of the teachers who lack understanding.

Beware of strange doctrines: False teachers are rampant in the world, and they are subtly and stealthily introducing heretical doctrines to the churches. Fake teachers are sneaking into the churches globally, and they are speaking harmful lies that are leading the Beloved astray. The teachings of these unfaithful teachers and their destructive opinions are disowning Jesus Christ who purchased them with His precious Blood. Flee from any teacher who brings contrary doctrines which denies the Redeemer; if you do not want to perish.

Every pernicious teaching is a satanic doctrine that leads to destruction, and any teacher that is against the way of truth, or discrediting it, is a fake. Beware of the teachers who will say anything to exploit you. The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring on destructive

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heresies, even denying the Lord who brought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” **2 Peter 2:1**. Do not pay attention to anyone who is telling lies about God and those whose teachings are turning people against their Maker; because they are false teachers, immaterial of their posts, or positions in the churches.

Judgment will come upon the erring teachers

It should be noted that if God did not have pity on the angels that sinned; then He would penalize the erring people. If God did not spare angels that sinned, but cast them into hell; it signifies that God will penalize all disobedient people. So, if you do not want to be punished; discipline yourself before it is too late; according to the Bible passage which says, “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.” **2 Peter 2:4**. Since you know that God will not let you off the hook, or permit you to go scot-free, if you fall into sin; why not change today and turn to God?

Do not forget that the time has arrived when judgment will begin from the churches; therefore, it is time for every Christian to discipline himself/herself. As it is written, “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?” **1 Peter 4:17**. Remember that judgment will start from the vineyard of God; so, repent.

Finally, keep your body under control; so that you won't lose out after proclaiming the Good News to others. It is inevitable for you to discipline your body and subdue it; else you may become unfit after preaching salvation to others. Beware, so that you will not be disqualified and rejected as counterfeit; after propagating the Gospel throughout the world. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” **1 Corinthians 9:27**. You must discipline yourself, otherwise, you may

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become unworthy and unapproved, after preaching to countless people.

Seal: Luke 6:41-42: “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.”