

- I) V20 INTRO: In a great house, there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also wood and clay
 - a) A *great house* is a picture of the church
 - 1) 1 Ti 3:15 If I tarry long, that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in *the house of God*, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth

- II) WITHIN THE CHURCH: Are people with various commitments to the Lord
 - a) HE SPEAKS OF THESE PEOPLE: As Vessels, some for honor and others dishonor
 - 1) KEY: He is speaking of ordinary household utensils: Gold, silver, wood, and clay
 - 2) YET: They are arranged in a descending value, from *Gold* down to ordinary *clay*

- III) GOLD AND SILVER: Would to refer to two levels of committed, maturing Christians
 - a) *Gold* speaking of committed believers, *silver* of the *less* committed, yet genuine
 - 1) Lu 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
 - 2) Lu 14:27 Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.
 - 3) Phil 3:8 I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

- IV) SOME: Are Christian but struggle with their faith and their commitment to the Lord
 - a) FACT: Even among believers, there are some more sold out than others
 - 1) Some genuine believers just barely get in to heaven! Genuine faith that never really grows
 - 2) 1 Co 3:11-15 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.
 - 3) HOW CAN WE BECOME VESSELS FOR HONOR: Paul makes it clear how this occurs

- V) V21 THEREFORE: If anyone cleanses himself from *the latter*, he will be a vessel for honor
 - a) If anyone *cleanses himself* from the latter: What is he talking about?
 - 1) CONTEXT: If anyone *disassociates* him or herself *from false teachers* and bad influences

- VI) THE KEY: They must stop associating with false teachers (sometimes carnal believers)
 - a) Their teaching will have an effect on your spiritual life and will cripple you
 - 1) 1 Co 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
 - 2) Pr 13:20 He who walks with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
 - 3) Do not use these false teachers as examples: They will undermine your walk with the Lord

- VII) V22 NOW: Flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace
 - a) WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THEIR TEACHING? *Living fleshly lives*:
 - 1) Flee *youthful lusts*: Lusts: Strong yearning, in this context, sinful desires
 - 2) 1 Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from *fleshly lusts*, which war against the soul

- VIII) TIMOTHY WAS STILL A YOUNG MAN: Though more than likely, mature beyond his age
 - a) He may still be dealing with the characteristics often associated with immaturity
 - 1) Impatience, self-assertion, a love for arguments, partiality, a need for attention, emotionality

- I) **YOUTHFUL LUSTS:** Are usually manifested in at least three basic ways
 - a) **FIRST: *Pleasure:*** An inordinate desire for satisfaction of physical appetites (food, drink, sex)
 - 1) Pr 23:21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.
 - b) **SECOND: In the desire for *Power:*** The ungoverned desire to be first, to dominate
 - 1) Lu 22:25-26 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.
 - c) **THIRD: In the desire for *Possessions:***
 - 1) 1 Ti 6:9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

- II) **HOW ARE WE TO COMBAT THESE DESIRES? *Pursue* a life of godliness with likeminded people**
 - a) **PURE: Ceremonially clean, presentable to God**
 - 1) Free from corrupt desire, sin and guilt; free from what is false: blameless, innocent: unstained
 - 2) 1 Ti 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
 - 3) 1 Pe 3:10-11 Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it

- IV) **KEY: Maintain godly fellowship with believers who are likeminded**
 - a) Choose to fellowship with those who love the Lord
 - 1) Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

- IV) **V23 HE ADDS A SECOND ADMONITION: Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes**
 - a) Foolish (moronic) and ignorant (uninstructed) arguments (questionings, debates)
 - 1) These kinds of things divide churches:

- V) **KEY: THE FRUIT OF FALSE TEACHERS: Strife and division; a lack of unity (V14, 16)**
 - a) This kind of teacher produces comparisons and strife in churches
 - 1) Jude 1:19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

- VI) **V24 AND A SERVANT OF THE LORD: Must not quarrel, but be gentle (mild) to all, patient**
 - a) **QUARREL: Armed battle; dispute, angrily fight**
 - 1) Believers are not to be pugnacious and hostile

- VII) **TO QUARREL: Is not the same as arguing or persuading**
 - a) To argue your case and attempt to persuade can be done with love and civility
 - 1) Ac 9:29 He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists
 - 2) Ac 18:4 (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.
 - 3) 2Co 5:11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men

- VIII) **AS BELIEVERS: We present our faith openly, but not with hostility**
 - a) We argue for the life of the unborn, for marriage between male and female, for value of faith
 - 1) **EXAMPLE: Philip Pullman, The Golden Compass: My books are about killing God**
 - 2) If there is a God, and He is as the Christians describe Him, then He deserves to be put down and rebelled against

- I) **V24 IMPORTANT: Timothy is a servant of the Lord, and therefore must resemble his Lord:**
 - a) **Jesus is gentle, able to teach, and patient**
 - 1) **SADLY: People sometimes are *mean*, but the Lord is not**
 - 2) **Mt 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.**

- II) **V25 IN HUMILITY: Correcting those who are in opposition (as a gentle teacher)**
 - a) **HUMILITY: Is the virtue that makes correction of error possible**
 - 1) **We do not self-righteously judge people and argue angrily with them**
 - 2) **Gal. 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.**

- III) **CORRECTION: Whenever necessary must occur with humility**
 - a) **1 Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear**

- IV) **V25 IF GOD PERHAPS: Will grant them repentance so that they may know (epignosis) the truth**
 - a) **Repentance: A radical change of mind, that results in a radical change of behavior**
 - 1) **Will no longer be influenced by the false teachings, and will experience truth**

- V) **V26 COME TO THEIR SENSES: Return to soberness**
 - a) **Taken by him: Caught alive and used by him to do his will in this world and even the church**
 - 1) **False teaching produces incredibly negative results but Jesus sets you free**
 - 2) **Christians taken by false teaching can be set free by returning to the Lord and His word**
 - 3) **1 Jn 1:9**