

Excellent Behavior

1Peter 2:11-12 *Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Bad Behavior Seems the Norm

Surrounded by strife & controversy

Sports teams/figures

Political views/candidates

Paul's plea for unity was not only about spiritual

1Corinthians 1:10-13 *Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

Else why later deal concerned with loss from public lawsuits

Spiritual Loss all around because others see bad behavior

1Corinthians 6:1-11

James uses rich/poor for lesson on partiality

James 2:1-13

Can just as easily be caused by team preference. Or political views

Paul told Titus to avoid foolish controversies and focus on the Word

Titus 3:1-11

Who is greatest disciple?

Matthew 18,23; Mark 9; Luke 22; 9:46-56

If greatness as disciple is not to be sought how can we justify strife regarding greatness in purely worldly endeavors?

If Christ's detractors were not to be destroyed, why should we wish to 'destroy' those who oppose our political views?

Love neighbor, Behave Properly

Romans 13:9-14

Rather than discussion that leads to strife should

Colossians 4:5-6 *Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

Especially among brethren

Hebrews 10:24 *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,*

Love one another = know disciples

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

1John 4:7-21

We ought to have the same attitude as Christ regarding others.

Philippians 2:1-11

Romans 5:6-8 *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Why did He Die?

Are we of the world? Or of Christ?

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