

Francis Chan: Are You Destroying the Church?

Over three years ago, God started to speak to me deeply on the great sin of division, slander and gossip in the body of Christ.

God started to have me in situations where great hurt was being done, and I saw firsthand the way the enemy used these tactics to destroy and hurt the testimony of Jesus Christ in others' lives. One of many devotional articles I wrote during that time was called "God's Church Is Sacred in This Earth." The premise of the devotion was a warning that when we speak against the body of Christ, we speak against God's sacred church, of whom we are all a part.

Recently, God spoke to Francis Chan on that same verse (1 Cor. 3:17) to give us a loving warning to the body of Christ against division.

Here is a recent statement Francis made in regards to people who divide and leave church fellowship:

There is this terrifying verse in 1 Timothy where Paul talked about two men who rejected the faith. Paul said that he had handed them over to Satan, by which he meant that he'd put them outside of the church (1:20). Basically, these men were actively opposing the works of God, so rather than pretending everything was fine, Paul removed them from the safety and blessings of the fellowship of believers. He was hoping that the misery of being separated from the church would lead them to repent. Are you catching the weight of this? Paul equated removal from the church with being handed over to Satan! It is crazy to me that we live in a time when people are voluntarily doing this to themselves! No church has placed them outside of the fellowship; instead, they've handed

themselves over to Satan!

Nowadays, people in North America are critical of so much that is called Christian, but they should be doing what the apostle Paul told Timothy to command others to do—repent of their pride and sins. What a sobering thought!

We are living in a day where we are judging others and not ourselves. We are finding it easy to be critical of everything but our own sins we ourselves struggle with.

Francis again shares on how God wants to send real unity to the body of Christ:

Real love, unity and blessing were supposed to be found in the church. Many are having a hard time finding that, so they're setting off on their own. Jesus said that the world would see the supernatural unity and love we share in the church and believe in Him through that. But we're not experiencing it. We've given up on it. We no longer believe it is possible.

Perhaps we can start to change our minds and start looking towards others with seeing their good and not bad, speaking blessings over others and not curses. Remember we are fitted together in a temple of God with all saints of all ages. And Francis gives the example of someone taking a sledgehammer to this temple. What a fearful thing to do, of course we would depart from such an individual for fear of what God Himself would do to him. As the Scripture says, “Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them” (Titus 3:10, NIV).

You can watch the full video message by Francis Chan, “Are You Destroying the Church?” where he gives this loving warning against division in the church.

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