

Corrupting - cont.

supper (Acts 20:7), singing only without instruments (Ephesians 5:19), baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:9); etc.

Why Many Corrupt the Word

There are reasons why many corrupt the word. Some do it for financial gain (Ezekiel 13:19; John 2:16; Acts 20:20,27,33; Titus 1:11; 2 Peter 2:3,15; Jude 11,16). Others do it for selfishness (Philippians 3:19), a desire for popularity (Acts 12:2,22-23; 20:29-30; Galatians 1:10), or a love of human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22; 2:5; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2 Peter 2:18). Some do it because they have hardened hearts (1 Timothy 4:2-3).

How Should We Speak?

Like Paul, we should never corrupt the word of God. When we speak, we should speak "as of sincerity" (Isaiah 30:9-10; Romans 16:18; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:4ff) and "as of God" (1 Peter 4:11). We should offer book, chapter and verse for what we believe and teach. As Christians, we should always remember we are seed-sowers, not salesmen (Luke 8:11).
- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- Criticizing the faults of others does not remove our own.
- Idle gossip never remains idle.
- Pride can rob you of honesty, forgiveness, friendship, happiness, and eternal life.
- Many who claim much love for the Lord have little love for their brethren.
- Truth never needs a lie to defend it.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

November 29, 2020



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Corrupting the Word of God

*For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God, speak we in Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 2:17 -*

In the book of 2 Corinthians, Paul made it clear that his preaching was not such that it corrupted the word of God. He was not like the “many” of his day who corrupted it when they preached. He was different. In this section of the book, Paul stated his plans regarding Corinth (2:12-13), his work of preaching (2:14-16), and his absence of dishonesty (2:17).

What exactly is involved in “corrupting the word of God” and how can it be done today? “Corrupting” is from the Greek word *kapeleuo*, meaning “to peddle, make merchandise, or sell that which is corrupted.” Consider this definition of the Greek word by W.E. Vine:

“*kapeleuo* ... primarily signifies ‘to be a retailer, to peddle, to hucksterize’ (from *kapelos*, an inn-keeper, a petty retailer in contrast to *emporos*, a merchant); hence, ‘to get base gain by dealing in anything,’ and so, more generally, ‘to do anything for sordid personal advantage’ ... *kapeleuo* has the

broader significance of doing so in order to make dishonest gain ... accordingly ‘hucksterizing’ would be the most appropriate rendering in this passage (W.E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, p. 130).

Paul refused to corrupt the word of God (see also 2 Corinthians 4:2). However, many today do this very thing. Let us examine how and why many corrupt the word of God today. They corrupt the word when...

They accentuate the positive gospel and down-play (or eliminate) the negative.

Many will corrupt the word of God by preaching only certain parts of it. Some parts of the gospel involve the negative (Luke 14:26,27,33; 2 Timothy 4:2-3). Doctrines like hell are negative (Matthew 25:46). There are also errors which are condemned in scripture (Matthew 23; 2 Timothy 2:17-18; 2 Peter 2:1ff; Revelation 2:14-15,20). When these “negative” parts of the gospel are found, many will just skip over them or ignore them.

They avoid controversial subjects and debates.

Many will corrupt the word of God by avoiding confrontation of any kind. They

will not “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3). They will not answer error with truth. Even though Jesus himself was controversial (Matthew 21-23) and Paul was controversial (Acts 15), these people feel that they are better than Jesus and Paul. They feel that they are too good for confrontation.

They offer the social gospel that appeals to the individual’s wants.

Many corrupt the word of God by offering the social and recreational to their audiences. Jesus did not offer the social (John 6:27), but these people do. The work of church is not social (1 Timothy 3:15), but these people make it so. The Lord’s church belongs to Jesus (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28), but these people say things like: : “This church is for you...”

They change the word of God to accommodate modern culture.

Many corrupt the word of God by changing it to fit modern culture. They do not hold fast the pattern of sound words (2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 1:13). They are change-agents. They change things like women’s roles (1 Timothy 2:12), the Sunday Lord’s