



TEACHER: BETH SEIFERT

ONAOMI'S TABLE 2016

Day 14: Ephesians 5:7-14 Brilliant Exposure

Read Proverbs 10:18-21. How does Scripture view one who indulges in slanderous speech?

Read Proverbs 20:19. What is a slanderer also called here? Why should we not associate with them?

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-11. What instructions does Paul give regarding the speech of the deacons? The wives of deacons also have a calling to fulfill. What is contrasted with slander in verse 11? (I count 3 things)

Read Matthew 18:15-17. Remember, this context is regarding *believers* about *believers*. What should be our response when a brother/sister sins against us? Look careful at verse 15. What should be the goal? What would you be “gaining” them to? If your brother/sister does not listen, what should you do next? Why? Again, what would be the goal? If they still refuse to listen, what should you do then? Again, the goal? If they still refuse, how are we to treat them? How are we to treat our enemies? (Check Matthew 5:43-45.) So, again, how *specifically* should you treat that brother or sister *now*?

Read Matthew 5:14-16. How does Jesus describe His followers? What analogy does Jesus use to help us understand how we are to be? What does this mean? How are you doing at obeying this?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Who should believers be yoked with? Why? Notice, Paul isn't speaking about marriage here, but this passage does apply to marriage as well. In what other relationships that you have might this verse be applicable? What “role” do we have, according to verse 16? What relationship does God tell us He will have with us?

Read 1 John 1:5-10. Why does John tell us we can have nothing to do with darkness? When do we have fellowship with other believers and with Christ? Is John suggesting we have to live perfect, sinless lives? How do you know? What hope does John offer for us, as we still struggle with sin?

As you come before God today, confess and repent of any sin that you are hiding from the world, hoping that no one will find out. Know that it is only once it is confessed that it can be truly dealt with; keeping it in darkness simply feeds that sin. Ask Him to help you to stop feeding that sin today. If there is someone you need to ask for forgiveness, do that as well. Thank God that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness when we confess our sins.

Don't take that truth lightly; confess your sins, and confess them specifically, understanding that you do need forgiveness, not taking your sin too lightly or too seriously. Rest in the promise that He does forgive and that He has chosen to be your Father.