

Karen Sweeney

Assignment 14

14-1

1. In Philippians 2:1-4 Paul is telling the church on how they should conduct themselves. He is giving the audience moral guidelines by putting others before self, to love one another and to live in unity. He wanted them to have compassion and teach that Jesus is our example. In Philippians 2:5-11 explains why Jesus is our example because he lived humbly and served others by healing and teaching about the Kingdom of God and how we should morally live. Then Jesus gives the ultimate sacrifice by suffering and dying for us. Now the Father has exalted him above anyone else for what he did for mankind.
2. Ephesians 5:15-21 Paul sets the foundation guidelines on how the church is to conduct themselves to live godly lives. Believers need to be wise in their actions and praise God and do his will. Ephesians 5:22-6:9 Paul outlines the hierarchy and gives instructions to specific roles, as to wives, husbands, children, parents, slaves, and masters, on how one should conduct themselves in these roles. Paul reminds Christians that we have moral guidelines, and we must obey and submit to authorities and that Jesus is witness to what we do and how we act, and he is our Lord.
3. 1Corinthians 12 Paul talks about the different gifts of the Holy Spirit such as wisdom, the gift of healing, prophecy, speaking in tongues, and performing miracles and how they should be used to help others. He emphasis that the church is one body and each member is a part of that body and should work as a whole. In 1Corinthians 13 he talks about these gifts and how they should be used in love and not self-purpose. These gifts may only be temporary and the greatest gifts we can have are faith, hope, and love, love being the greatest gift of all. 1Corinthians 14 emphasis that no one should be jealous of another's gift and that gift must be used for God's purpose and work in unity with others and their gifts. Again, to work as one body with all the parts working in unison.

14-2 1 Peter 5:6-7

Step 1

Peter the apostle was writing an epistle for all Christians during a chaotic time probably around 64/65 AD. Many looked at Christians as outcasts and they were not willing to participate in the Roman festivals and games due to pagan sacrifices to their gods or to the emperor and therefore many lost their jobs, and some forced to leave their home. Most Christians showed extreme kindness and high moral values, taking in infants that were left outside to die, treating slaves with dignity, refusing to participate in any of the wild gatherings that was common in Rome at the time. Emperor Nero was unstable and did not like the Christians, but they were to heed Rome's authority. Peter likely knew his death was near and wrote to the Christians to encourage and guide them. He tells the elders to care for God's people and to serve willingly and not for financial gain. He tells the younger members to live in humility and to listen and respect the elders. This was probably directed to outside the church as well since many verbally abused the Christians for their disdain for them. He talks about the troubles all Christians will experience but to be strong in faith and that God sees their suffering but if they endure will have eternal glory through Christ. Many Christians met in private and often at night to share communal meals and fellowship to avoid persecution.

Step 2

When we look at the world today, we can see that persecution for Christians still exist. In fact, we see many countries where Christianity and the Bible are outlawed. Many Christians still meet and gather in private homes. Christians can be put in prison and tortured for their faith in these countries. There are countries which were founded on Christianity but has seen a big decline and refuse to see God as the creator of all but teach evolution. People now fight to take faith out of schools (no public prayers or teachings) as well as government. There is an increase in sexual immorality which is celebrated where it used to be frowned upon. We see the younger generation being raised without morals and no consequences for wicked behavior. True Christianity is still a struggle to uphold today. Many organizations require their employees to work on Saturdays and participate in the pagan holidays.

Step 3

The theological principles are to humble ourselves before God and know he is in control as it states in Daniel 4:35 "All inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the inhabitants of earth." Therefore, we should submit to God and give him our anxieties knowing we rely on him and not our own strength.

God cares for us as written in Matthew 10:26-31” So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what is whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs on your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Even though believers may have to go through hardships are worse, God will help us through them. It is also written that if believers humble ourselves and submit to God that he will exalt them. Genesis 37-50 shows how Joseph was sold into slavery, put in jail, and then becomes second to Pharaoh. David was anointed king but waited several years and on the run for his life before he became king.

Step 4

We see these theological principles throughout the Bible. We see how God is in control in Exodus when he sends Moses to give hope to the Israelites and to be the intercessor to God and then shows Pharaoh his mighty power and eventually leads the Israelites to freedom. We see how God used Babylon to punish the Israelites for turning away from him. We can also see how God can comfort us in times of despair and hardship as Paul states in Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God.” We have Jesus as our example of how to live humbly and be dependent on the Father. If believers live humbly and submit to God those who do will be exalted as it states in Matthew 23:12 “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Step 5

These theological principles still apply today. Christians need to live humbly and to rely on God because he is always in control. In today’s world success focuses on one’s career, education, or how popular one is on social media rather than their faith in God. Believers must not get caught up in the things of this world but instead help others in need, praise God for all his wonderful deeds, and obeying God’s laws and commandments. Submitting to God is a way to have peace by knowing and trusting that God is in control and that he will take care of us as it states in Psalm 37:5 “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.”

14-3

Karen Sweeney
5529 Ferrero Lane
Keedysville, MD 21756

Church of God WA

Dear Pastor Thomas,

It has been a pleasure to attend the last couple of services. All the congregation has been supportive and encouraging. Your sermons have been enlightening, and I am learning and growing in God's word. I know that the church's mission is for everyone to know God's message in life, truth, and hope. I know the church is Bible based and God's word is truth. You have generously welcomed me and my family into the congregation. I do wish there was a children's ministry because children need to be taught in a different way. A simple and fun way for them to learn since they can get easily bored. Also, on the prayer list I would like to add others who do not attend this church or any church because I think it is important for us to pray for anyone in need whether they attend or not. Maybe praying for them will lead them to our congregation. It is wonderful to attend Sabbath service with all of you and to participate in God's holy days. The church shows love to all its members, and I love all of you and my desire is for the church to keep growing and to see more people come to God's truth. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

In Christ,
Karen