

Introduction:

1. The ideal and the real exist side by side in every person and in every church.
2. It is only by facing the glum reality of weakness and sin that we can see the need for change and growth; yet it is only by constantly affirming the ideal that we can find the power for change.
3. I Cor. 3:1-3 "And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither now are ye able.

A. The church was beset with all kinds of problems.

I. MANY PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURES EMPHASIZE WHAT OUGHT TO BE * NOT WHAT IS.

1. Heb. 2;1 "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard....
2. Heb. 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."
3. I Tim. 3:15 "That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God which is the church of the living God.....
A. Not talking about a church building or meeting place.
4. I Tim. 5:13 "...They learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers, also, and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.
A. Paul told these widows to marry and mind their own business.
5. Titus 1:11 "Whose mouths must be stopped who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."
A. It is the work of the Bishop's to do this.
6. Col. 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."
7. James 3:10 "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing, My brethren, these things ought not so to be."
8. James 4:15 "For ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."
9. II Pet. 3:11 "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all conversation and godliness.."
10. I John 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also walk, even as he walked."
11. I John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."
12. I John 4:11 "Beloved, ~~of~~ God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

13. Luke 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them that men ought always to pray and not to faint."
14. Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."
15. Acts 19:36 "Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and do nothing rashly."
 - A. The ~~from~~ clerk's advice to the Ephesians.
16. Rom. 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think,
17. Rom. 15:1 "We then that are strong ought to bear the the infirmities of the weak."
18. Eph. 5:28 "So then men ought to love their wives as their own bodies.."

II. CONVERSION IS A PROGRESSIVE, CONTINUOUS PROCESS TIL DEATH

1. We Can Make Constant Progress Each Day:

- A. By taking time out to talk to God.
- B. By taking time out to listen to God.
- C. By taking time to do something for God each day.

2. Conversion Begins at Baptism and ends at the end of life.
3. Let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on the goal - heaven.