

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION



SET/APART

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

1 PETER 2:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

TITUS 2:11-14 (NKJV)

" For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

2 CORINTHIANS 6:17-7:1 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty." ¹ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

ROMANS 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

1 PETER 1:13-17 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT



- Distinct in thinking — “gird up the loins of your mind”
- Distinct in focus — “be sober”
- Distinct in faith — “rest your hope fully”
- Distinct in action — “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance”
- Distinct in behavior & attitude — “conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear”

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION ⁸

AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT



- As the chosen people of God, we are to be DIFFERENT – 1 Pet 1:13-16; 2:9-12; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Titus 2:11-14
- We are not to be “conformed” by the world in our thinking, teaching or deeds – Rom. 12:1,2; Col. 2:8,9; Eph 2:2
- Our love and affections should not be set on “worldly” things – 1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:1,2; James 4:4
- We can only have one master at a time – Mat. 6:24; John 8:34

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION ⁹

AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT



- Not a matter of being different just to be different – (a thing is NOT wrong just because the world or denomination does it)
- Our distinctiveness comes from following God's pattern, obeying His word, transforming our minds and deeds to be in harmony with God's will — Rom 12:1,2; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 Pet 1:13-17

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION¹⁰

DISTINCTIVE PREACHING



- The preaching of Jesus
— (Mt. 7:28-29; Luke 4:31-32; Jn 7:32, 45-46)
- The preaching of Peter & John — (Act 4:13)
- The preaching of Paul
— (1 Cor. 2:1-5; Acts 20:20)

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

DISTINCTIVE PREACHING



- In stressing the importance of distinctiveness, we are referring NOT to style, but to substance — (Acts 18:24; 1 Cor. 1:17; 2:1; 2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6; 1 Cor. 3:5–9).
- Gospel preachers are to proclaim the word of God — (2 Tim 4:2; Acts 20:20)

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DISTINCTIVE PREACHING



- Preaching & teaching must be clear, precise, understandable, unambiguous, and unmistakably rooted in the Word of God — (1 Cor. 14:6–12, esp. vv. 7–8; Jer. 6:16–19; Ezek. 3:16–19).
- The TRUTH must be spoken in LOVE — (Eph 4:15)

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION¹³

DISTINCTIVE DEMEANOR — EPH 4:1-3



EPHESIANS 4:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you to walk worthy of the
calling with which you were called, ²
with all lowliness and gentleness, with
longsuffering, bearing with one
another in love, ³ endeavoring to
keep the unity of the Spirit in the
bond of peace.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION¹⁴

DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINE — EPH 4:4-6



EPHESIANS 4:4-6 (NKJV)

⁴ There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; ⁵ **one Lord**, **one faith**, **one baptism**; ⁶ **one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINE — EPH 4:4-6

- What A Person Must Do In Order To Be Saved In The Words of Inspired Men — (1 Peter 4:11)
- The Alien Sinner — (Rom 10:17; John 8:24; Romans 10:9,10; Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; 10:47; 22:16; Ro 6:3-6; 1 Pet 3:21)
- The Christian — (Col. 1:23; Rev 2:10; Acts 8:18-24; 1 John 1:9)



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DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINE — EPH 4:4-6



- The Need To Live In Love & Purity – (Mk 12:29–31; Col. 3:1–14; 2 Cor 6:14–7:1; Eph 5:1–18; 1 Pt 1:13–18)
- The Need For Positive Divine Authority For Everything Believed, Taught & Practiced – (Mat 21:25; 1 Pet 4:11; Col. 3:17)
- The Plea For Unity Upon What The Bible Says – (1 Cor 1:10; John 17:20–22; Ephe 4:1–6)

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

DISTINCTIVE ORGANIZATION

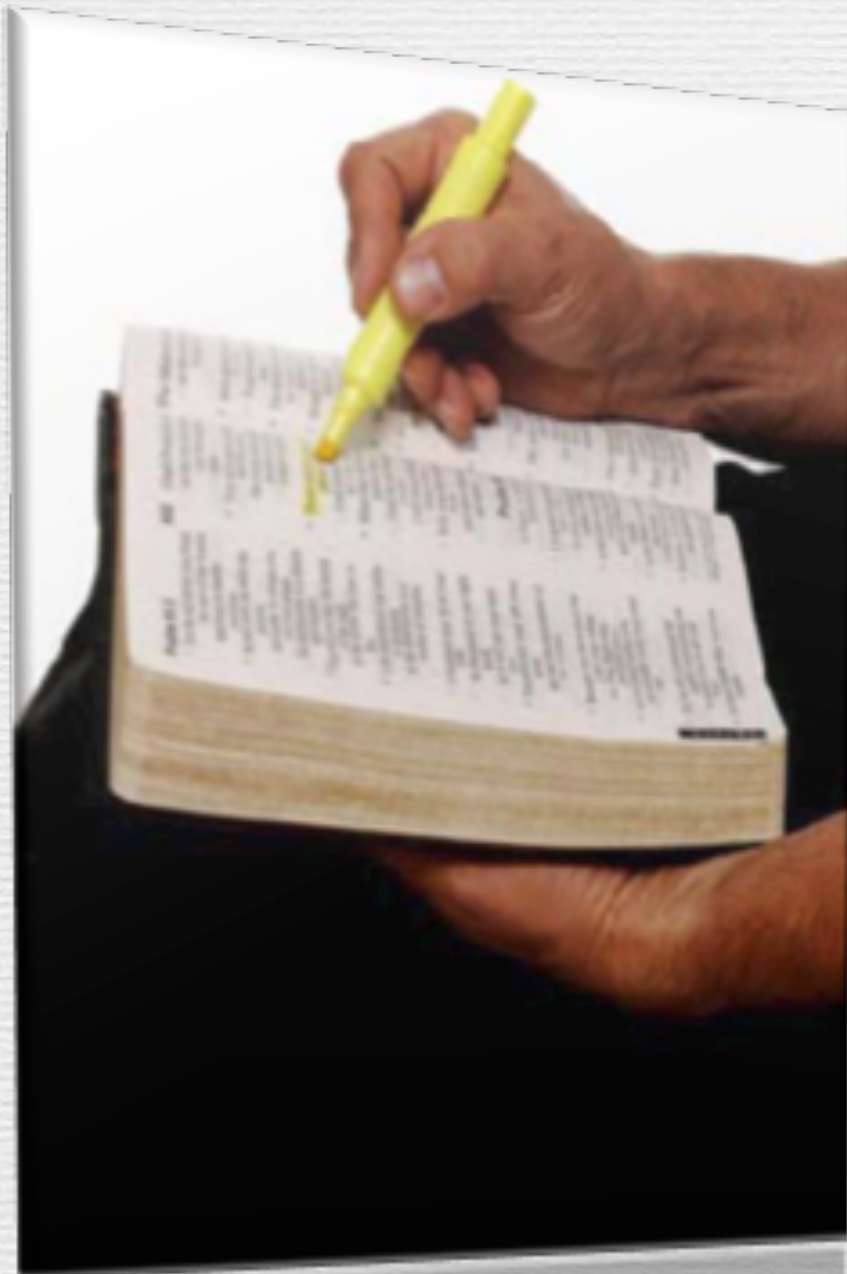


EPHESIANS 4:11-12 (NKJV)

" And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

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DISTINCTIVE ORGANIZATION



Part of the
structure through
their writings - II
Eph 2:20

To protect
members from
error — 13,14
To equip
members for
service — 15,16

Apostles,
Prophets,
Evangelists,
Pastors
Teachers,

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

DISTINCTIVE ORGANIZATION

PHILIPPIANS 1:1 (NKJV)

Paul and Timothy,
bondservants of Jesus
Christ, To all the saints
in Christ Jesus who are
in Philippi, with the
bishops and deacons:

- **Elders / Pastors / Bishops** - (Acts 14:23; 20:17,28; 1 Pet. 5:1-5; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
- **Deacons** - (Phili 1:1; 1 Tim 3:8-13)
- **Saints** - (Phili 1:1; 1 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1)

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DISTINCTIVE ORGANIZATION



- Local church autonomy
- Pastors (bishops; elders), over each local church ~ (1 Pet 5:1,2; Acts 14:23; Tit 1:5)

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DISTINCTIVE WORK



- Edification of the church
-(Eph 4:11-16)
- Benevolence to needy
saints - (Ro 15:25-26)
- Evangelism - (Acts 13:1-3)
- Nothing else - (Col. 3:17)

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION

DISTINCTIVE WORK

➤ Many churches engage in things that can't be found in the NT

- *Secular Education -*
- *Politics -*
- *Entertainment -*
- *Recreation - (Family Life Centers)*
- *Social / community Services -*



MATTERS OF DISTINCTION²³

DISTINCTIVE CONDUCT



EPHESIANS 4:21-24 (NKJV)

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION ²⁴

DISTINCTIVE CONDUCT

• Things Saints Must Put Away - (Eph 4:19-5:18)

1. Lewdness (4:19)

2. Lying (4:25)

3. Anger (4:26)

4. Stealing (4:28)

5. Corrupt speech (4:29)

6. Evil speech (4:31)

7. Wrath, anger, malice (4:31)

7. Fornication (5:3)

8. All uncleanness (5:3)

9. Coarse jesting (5:4)

10. Filthiness (5:4)

11. Covetousness / idolatry (5:5)

12. Disobedience (5:6)

13. Drunkenness (5:18)

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION²⁵

DISTINCTIVE CONDUCT



- Saints are to walk in LOVE — 5:1-7
- Saints are to walk in LIGHT — 5:6-14
- Saints are to walk in WISDOM — 5:15-18

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION²⁶

DISTINCTIVE WORSHIP



EPHESIANS 5:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION²⁷

DISTINCTIVE WORSHIP



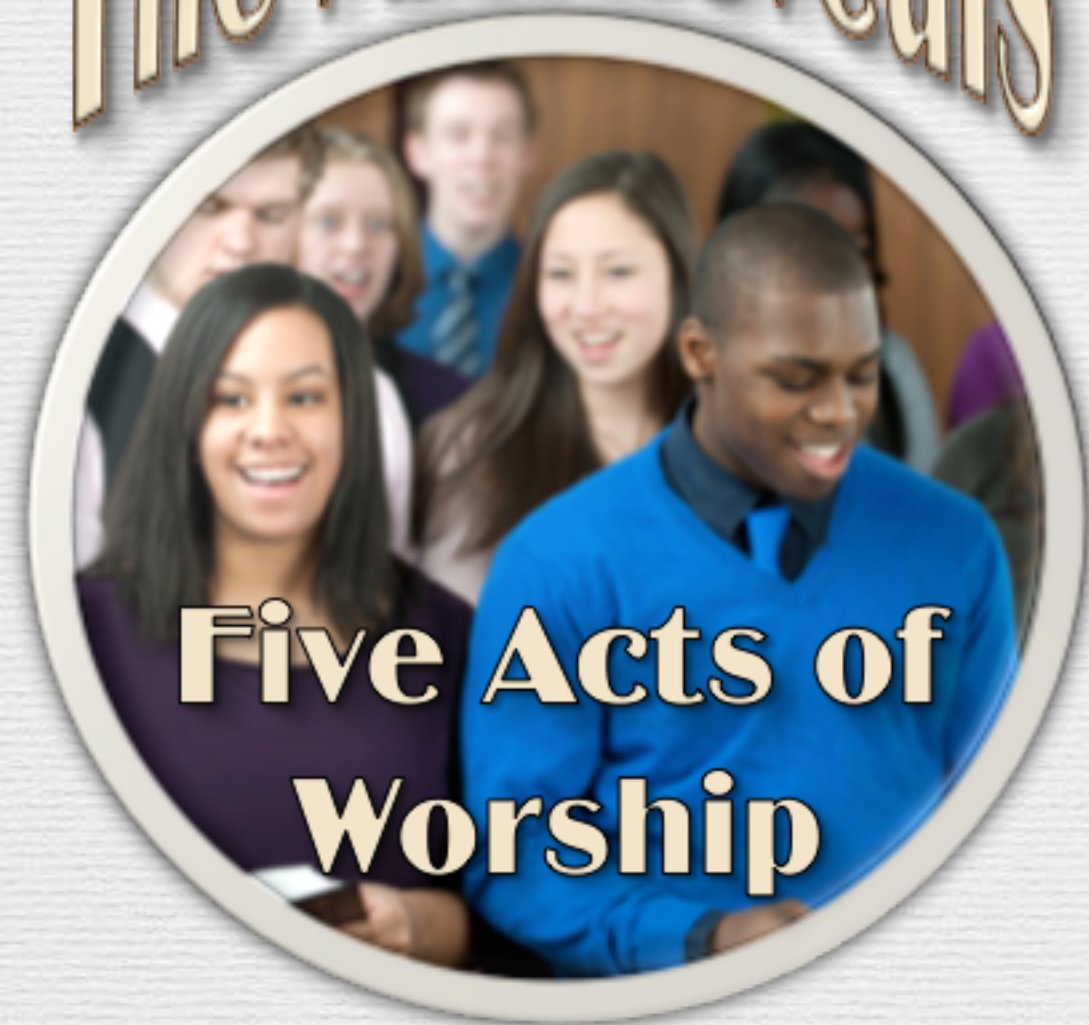
JOHN 4:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

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DISTINCTIVE WORSHIP

The N.T. Reveals



- Studying God's Word - (Acts 20:7; Col 4:16)
- Singing - (Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- Praying - (Acts 4:23-31; Eph 6:18)
- Giving (*First day of the week*) - (1 Cor 16:1,2)
- Observing The Lord's Supper (*First day of the week*) - (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:23-26)

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MATTERS OF DISTINCTION³⁰

AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT



- Have you purified your souls in obeying the truth? — 1 Pet 1:22, Acts 2:38
- Are you living a holy life in service to God? — Rom 12:1,2; Eph 4:21-24
- If the answer to either of these questions is no — receive the cleansing the blood of Christ provides, and begin living your life for Jesus, who died for you — Romans 6:3-19; Colossians 2:12,13; 3:1,2

MATTERS OF DISTINCTION



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1 PETER 4:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.



1 PETER 4:1-6 (NKJV)

³ For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.



1 PETER 4:1-6 (NKJV)

⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

