

**BE YE THEREFORE WISE AS  
SERPENTS AND HARMLESS AS  
DOVES  
MATTHEW 10**

Text: Matthew 10:16

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<sup>16</sup> Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Introduction:

The one mark that Christ said would distinguish His followers is the love they have for each other (John 13:35).

**John 13:35**

<sup>35</sup> By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Yet the history of the church has demonstrated to the world quite a different picture. Paul's Pastoral epistles deal with a myriad of conflict and controversy among believers. As a church we must stop hurting each other. We must learn to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

# 1. WISE AS SERPENTS

Wise - intelligent, prudent, mindful of one's interests

A. Wise to that which is good

## **Romans 16:19**

<sup>19</sup> For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

B. Wise to the wiles of the devil

## **1 Peter 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

C. Wise to the Will of God

## **Romans 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

# 2. Harmless As Doves

A. In our attitude

B. In our demeanor

C. In our words

Close:

Christ knew the conditions a Christian would face in this world. He also knew and wanted them to know how to face it. He used terms they understood to describe it.

Remember:

The Nature of Sheep Endanger them

The Location of Sheep Endanger them

Illustration:

#### Compare sheep to wolves

- Wolves are cunning, strong, and swift
- Wolves are deadly killers
- Wolves run in packs to kill
- Wolves do not kill just to satisfy hunger. They often kill for the sport of it.

Let's heed the advice of the Lord's instruction and be very aware of our enemy.