"Concerning Sheep" (2)

"Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door."

(James 5:9)

Sullying, Self-Centered Sheep

Ezekiel 34:17-19 – (17) "As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. (18) <u>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture</u>, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, <u>that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet</u>? (19) And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?"

Bullying & Scattering Sheep

Ezekiel 34:20-22 – (20) "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. (21) Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, (22) I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep."

3 Rules for Relationships

(1) The Golden Rule

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

(2) The Silver Rule

"Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another...and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you." (1 Thessalonians 4:9, 11)

(3) The Bronze Rule

"...in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."
(Philippians 2:3-4)

& 2 Warnings

"A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing." (Proverbs 6:12-15)

"There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ...one who sows discord among brothers." (Proverbs 6:16, 19)

"When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not...For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged."

(1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 29-31)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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