

# **Church Discipline**



# Remember



- Difficult topic to accept and practice
- Do not let emotions drive your thinking.
  - Let scripture drive your thinking and actions
- How you have handled past situations is NOT proof or justification of righteousness.
  - Recall Saul's actions before he was called Paul
  - Recall 1 Cor 4:4
- Do not jump to conclusions.
  - Quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (Jas 1:19)
  - Listen, understand what the scripture is saying
  - It is easy to misunderstand one another
  - Ask questions (Prov 18:17)
- We are trying to learn God's will

# 1 Cor 5



- The church was accepting immoral conduct within its ranks/fellowship.
- Paul decided to take action - no discussion
  - This was well known sin.
  - He had the confirmation of the sin.
- V4 - Church to identify/mark sinner when assembled
- Purpose: Shame him into repentance. Save his soul. (V5)
- V6-8 - Sinful to allow sin in the church
  - Prevent sin from growing
  - Save the souls of the members
  - Remove their arrogance (v2)

# 1 Cor 5 - continued

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- V9 - Paul had previously commanded to withdraw from immoral Christians.
- V11 - He is speaking of immoral brethren.
- V11 – Do not associate with Christians who are: immoral, covetous, idolater, reviler, drunkard, swindler, etc.
  - Do not even eat with such a one.
  - There is to be a clear change in the relationship and the acceptance of the individual in sin.
- V12,13 - Judge those who are in the church. God judges the others.
- Put away the evil person (Christian).

# Main Passages



- Matt 18:15-17 - Sins against you (Private)
- Rom 16:17-18 - Note the factious person
- 1 Cor 5 – Do not associate with immoral people
- 2 Thes 3:6-15 – Keep away from unruly, admonish as a brother
- 2 John 9-11 - Those who do not abide in Word
- Titus 3:10-11 - Reject a factious man
- Ezek 3:18 - We must give a warning
- Phil 3:15-17 – All are to live by same standard
- 1 Tim 6:3-5 – Cannot promote different doctrine
- 2 Tim 3:2-5 – Many people will reject truth

# Additional Passages



- Rev 2:14 – 16 – Church at Pergamos
- Mt 10:32-37 - Cannot love family more
- Mt 19:28-29 - Left father/mother for Him
- Mk 10:29-30 - Left father for Him
- Lk 12:51-53 - Divided against family
- Lk 14:26-27 - Love God more

# Matt 18:15-17



- This is describing a private sin.
- Keep it private. Go to your brother only.
- If he will not hear
  - Take 1-2 unbiased trustworthy witnesses
  - Confirm every word via witnesses
  - If still will not hear, tell it to the church
  - If still will not hear, withdraw from him
- The Goal is restore him.

# What is Withdrawal?

- An act of Love
  - For God
  - For the sinning Christian
- An act of arrogance (i.e. sin) if not practiced.
- Its purpose is to
  - Save the soul of the sinner
  - Purify the church – save souls of members
- Each individual must
  - Not associate with the sinner (1 Cor 5)
  - Not eat with the sinner (1 Cor 5)
  - Treat as Gentile or Tax collector (Mt 18)
  - Watch/Identify and turn away from (Rom 16)
  - Identify and not associate with sinner (2 Thes 3:14)
  - Admonish as brother not an enemy (2 Thes 3:15)
  - Not receive into house or give a greeting (2 Jn 1:10-11)
  - Reject factious man after 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> warning (Titus 3:10)



# Dealing With Sin is Required

- Watchman's duty – Ezk 33:1-9
  - A watchman must warn the troops.
  - The righteous must warn the wicked. If not the wicked will still be punished but the righteous will be guilty as well.
- Love demands giving a warning.
  - Be devoted, giving preference – Rom 12:9-11
  - Look out for the interests of others – Phil 2:3-4
  - Love covers a multitude of sins – 1 Pet 4:8
    - Consider James 5:19-20
- We are to be a light unto the world – Matt 5:13-16.
  - Faithful Christians are a representation of God's word to mankind

# When Dealing with Sin...

- Always consider yourself 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Take a close honest look at your conduct and life. Look at your actions in this situation.
  - Clear up your sins before dealing with the sins of others.
  - Mt 7:1-5, Lk 6:39-42.
- Confirm the matter is sinful.
  - Find the passage that defines it as sin. Study it.
  - Strive to find justification in a person's actions rather than condemnation (Mt 7:1-2, Phi 2:3-5)
- Remove/Control your emotions.
  - Be angry but sin not (Eph 4:26-27).
  - Think rationally, reasonably, justly, not emotionally (Mt 7:1-2, Parables, Jam 3:17, Deut 1:16, Prov 31:9)
  - Give all benefit of the doubt. Treat others the way you would want to be treated. (Mat 7:1-2, 11, Phi 2:3-5)
  - It cannot be about revenge. Vengeance belongs to God. (Rom 12:19)
  - Do not become bitter by letting the situation run thru your mind constantly (Eph 4:30-32).
- Have a forgiving attitude about the matter.
  - If we will not forgive others neither will God forgive us. (Matt 6:15)



# **APPENDIX**

# God Requires



- Identify the person – Rom 16:17, 2 Thes 3:14, Phil 3:17-18
- Do not associate with the sinner - 2 Thes 3:14, 1 Cor 5:11
- Do not eat with the sinner - 1 Cor 5:11
- Identify and no association (2 Thes 3:14)
- Admonish as brother not an enemy (2 Thes 3:15)
- Not receive into house or give a greeting (2 Jn 1:10-11)
- Treat as Gentile or Tax collector - Matt 18:17
- Avoid - Rom 16:17, 1 Tim 6:5, 2 Tim 3:5
- Reject factious man after 1st and 2nd warning - Titus 3:10