

KINGDOM ACCOUNTABILITY: LOVING CHURCH DISCIPLINE, I Cor 5, 7/17/22

❖ GETTING OUR FEET WET

- The story of John Ortburg
- Some incorrect responses
- The need for loving church discipline- I Cor 5

❖ DIVING INTO SCRIPTURE – I Cor 5

5:1-2- THE WRONG & RIGHT EMOTIONAL RESPONSE- pride vs. grief

5:2-5- A SOLEMN CEREMONY- cast him into Satan's hands

5:6-8- WARNING- It just takes a little yeast

5:9-11- CLARIFICATION- we should distance ourselves, from sinning, professing believers

5:12-13- CONCLUSION- we are to judge those inside the church, expelling the unrepentant

NBCC CONSTITUTION- Article 6, #3 Church Discipline- Scriptures call us to lovingly restore any professing believer caught in a lifestyle of sin, or who promotes a divisive attitude or doctrine (Article 2-6, Matthew 18:15-20). The Elders will handle church discipline with humility and prayer and require a two-thirds majority vote to be carried out. Discipline may include official rebuke or removal from leadership, ministry, membership, the Lord's Supper, close association (except for family or for contacting for restoration), etc. If the erring one withdraws without resolution, the church is still responsible to seek restoration. Scripture calls us to settle disputes as Christians and forbids civil lawsuits among believers. Criminal offenses may obligate the church to contact the authorities for society's protection. Footnotes- Matthew 18:15-20, I Corinthians 5:1-13, 6:1-8, Romans 16:17-20, Titus 3:9-11, Luke 17:3, II Corinthians 2:6-9, Galatians 6:1-3, I Timothy 1:20, 5:17-20. Criminal offenses- the church has an obligation to the authorities- Romans 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-15.

ARE WE REQUIRED TO SPEAK UP? Yes, for their sake & ours

- Lev 5:1- we will be held just as guilty
- Lev 19:17- don't hate your neighbor, but rebuke him frankly and do not share in his sin
- Ezk 33:1-9- but they won't listen to me- put the trumpet to your lips or their blood is on your head

WHEN ARE WE TO SPEAK UP?

- Mt 18:15-20- when they sin against us
- Lk 17:3-4 when we see them sin
- 1 Thess 5¹⁴ And we exhort you, brothers and sisters: warn those who are idle, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
- Heb 3:13 Encourage each other daily. So that none of you will be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

WHY ARE WE TO SPEAK UP?

- Prov 27:5-6- better open rebuke than hidden love, the wounds of a friend are faithful
- I Cor 16:14 -out of love for the other's benefit
- Jas 5:20- to save the sinner and cover a multitude of sins

HOW ARE WE TO SPEAK UP?

- Mt 18:15-20- directly, no gossip- see also Lev 19:16-18
- Gal 6:1- humbly, knowing we ourselves can be tempted

DON'T ASSOCIATE-informal, personal church discipline- when a person is unrepentant, divisive, immoral Rom 16:17-20, I Cor 15:33, II Thess 3:6, 14-15 (but don't treat them as an enemy), II Tim 3:5

OUR PRAYER- restoration- II Cor 2:5-11. *I know you didn't expect to hear from me, but there a few things I need to say. First, I know that the things you did in the church discipline process were because you loved me. I couldn't see that then. I do now. Second, I realize the life Christ has for me is better than the life my sin would create. I didn't want you to be right; at least, I didn't want to be wrong. But I realize now, my pride will only lead to my isolation and life disruption. Third, I want to cooperate with the church's efforts to restore. I can't change by myself. I need Christ and I need the support of a church family. I know you've been praying for me to say these things for months, but my eyes are finally open and my heart is soft to say them now. Can we talk about what needs to happen next?* (from Summit Church, NC, bradhambrick.com)