

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Special Topic: Disciplining in Love (part-2)

11.09.2022

How must we respond to the following situations?

Interpersonal Conflicts: Adam has been hurt because of the insensitive actions of Caleb.

Dividers: Becca is causing confusion & misunderstandings leading to divisions in the local church.

Shared Living: Abraham is soon to be engaged to Sarah in NYC. Both live in NYC and decide to share apartment to save rent. People assume that they are 'living in sin'.

Natural Talent versus God's Gift: Johnson has good command of English and is a gifted orator. He preaches dynamic sermons and congregation is impressed. But there are many doctrinal errors. Pastor is thrilled that many new members are joining and church bank balance is growing.

Business in Church: The church in Joppa attracts around 100 members every Sunday. One church member decides to set up a local store every Sunday in the fellowship hall. Church members find it convenient to shop right after church. Church is growing, Business is booming!

Disciplining in Love

Why? Who? How?

Lord loves
discipline,
and
disciplines
those He
loves

Lord loves discipline, and disciplines those He loves

that thou mayest know **how** thou oughtest **to behave** thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. | **Timothy 3:15**

Lord disciplines the one he loves. **Hebrews 12:6, NIV**

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. **Hebrews 12:11, NIV**

God is not the author of disorder. | **Corinthians 14:33**

Broad thoughts on discipline ... why, how, when, who, cost?

1. Disciplining is biblical
2. Discipline is God's way of protecting the purity of the church
3. Discipline leads to healthy growth of a church
4. Undisciplined sins will grow and ultimately, destroy the church
5. Discipline must be exercised using guidance of God's Word
6. Disciplining is painful ... not easy or pleasant
7. Indiscipline must be resolved in a timely and decisive manner
8. Disciplining is the responsibility of church (not just pastor)
9. Church discipline does not apply to outsiders
10. **Goals:** (a) To maintain the testimony of the church
(b) To restore believers

Why (1-4,10), **How** (5-6) **When** (7) **Who** (8-9)

* Names used
in scenarios are
fictional



#1 Interpersonal conflicts

Discussed 11/2

Progressive discipline (Mathew 18:15-20)

Pray & Take the initiative, Discuss the root cause, and reconcile.

- **Love is the foundation, and Reconciliation is the desired outcome.**

2 Church Dividers

Church elders observe that one of the members of church, Jona, is causing confusion, chaos, and misunderstandings with the intent of causing divisions within the church.

Why do such incidents happen?

How must the church respond?

God does not
approve
'dividers'

PROVERBS 6:16-19

¹⁶ These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Dividers are carnal Christians

I Corinthians 3:3

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and **divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?**

Response:

**Warn and
Walk away**

¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

¹¹ You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. (**Titus 3:10-11**)

Warn twice

Walk away

Exhortation for Unity

Paul's Plea | **Corinthians 1:10** Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Peter's Plea | **Peter 3:8** Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Jesus's prayer | **John 17: 21, 23** That they all may be one ...that they may be made perfect in one.

Practice and Blessing of unity

Unity Practiced - Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul:

Acts 4:32 will follow, if Acts 2:42 is practiced

Unity Blessed – Psalms 133 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ... for there the Lord commanded the blessing.

**Unity must
be based on
scriptures ...
not culture or
denomination**

- What must be the biblical foundation for Unity?

7-fold Basis of Unity

Ephesians 4:4-6

one body

one Spirit

one hope

One Lord

one faith

one baptism

One God and Father of all

3

Shared Living

Abraham is soon to be engaged to Sarah in NYC. Both live in NYC and decide to 'live together' to save rent. People 'assume' that they are "living in sin".

What questions does this situation pose?

How must the church respond?

Our Moral life: God's Will

I THESSALONIANS 4:3-5

³ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: **⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;** **⁵ Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:**

- It is possible that those who do not know God will break the moral laws. But believers are called to a higher standard.

Extreme Sexual Immorality

I Corinthians 5:1-13

note: here it refers to 'incest' but the application to our scenario of Abraham & Sarah could be similar.

It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. ... ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

⁶ Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ... ⁹ I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: ¹³ Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

How did the church respond to this sin? What does it say about the church? What is the basis for Paul's teaching? What does 'delivering to Satan' mean and what is the 'purpose'? What is the danger of ignoring such moral sins?

Admonish as a brother

II THESSALONIANS 3:14-15

¹⁴ And if anyone **does not obey our word** in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

Restore

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Repentance leads to Restoration

Correction strengthens
the testimony of the
church.



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