

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Special Topic: Disciplining in Love (part-3)

11.16.2022

How must we respond to the following situations?

Do we have a shared point of view?

1. Interpersonal Conflicts

2. Church Dividers

3. Shared Living by unmarried couples

4. **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 new members are joining and bank balance is growing.

5. **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 after church. Church is growing, Business is booming!

6. **Gray Areas:** Anthony is a college students and attends local church regularly. He is convinced that he must not kill (commandment #8) but is unable to find answers to his real temptations (movies, music, marijuana, etc.). Anthony feels that since it is not directly addressed in the Bible, the church has no right to tell him what to do.

Disciplining in Love

Why? Who? How? When?

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)

The background of the slide is a dense, chaotic arrangement of 3D white letters in various fonts and sizes, set against a light blue gradient. The letters are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, abstract effect. On the left side, there is a solid teal rectangular area containing white text. On the right side, there is a vertical beige rectangular bar.

* Names used
in scenarios are
fictional

#1 Interpersonal conflicts

Adam has been hurt because of the insensitive actions of Caleb.

Discussed 11/2/22

Action: Progressive discipline (Mathew 18:15-20)

Pray & Take the initiative,
Discover the root cause, and
Reconcile.

(ignoring the conflict may not be the best option;
Try to resolve privately first)

Goal: 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.

Discussed 11/9/22

Action: Warn and Walk away (Titus 3:10-11)

Resolve decisively and in a timely manner to avoid further damage to church.

Build unity on Spiritual ground (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Goal: Church Unity

#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".

- Discussed 11/9/22
- **Testimony compromised:** Immorality among believers adversely affects the testimony of believers, has long-term implications, and robs them of spiritual blessings.
- Exemplary moral character is in God's will (I Thessalonians 4:3-5) (I Corinthians 5:1-13).
- **Action:** Counsel... if counsel is rejected, disassociate.
- **Goal:** Repentance leading to change and spiritual restoration

#4 Natural Talents Vs. God's Gifts

Pete has good command of English and is gifted orator. He preaches great sermons and congregation is impressed. But there are many doctrinal errors. Pastor is thrilled that new members are joining church and bank balance is growing.

What do you expect to hear from preachers?

What is the reason for doctrinal errors?

What must we do?

Expectations from God's Word

Word of God delivered by preachers:

- **Must give the full counsel of God** (Acts 20:27)
- **Must be profitable** (lead to Learning, Correction, Repentance, Encouragement, Inspiration, Direction, Revelation, Challenge, Spiritual Maturity)

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (II Timothy 3:16-17)

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
(Colossians 1:28)

Reason for errors by preachers

Intentional mistakes

- Using scriptures out of context to reach wrong conclusions
- Misinterpretation / Misapplication of God's Word
- Adding or Deleting from the Bible
- Teaching partial truth, Lying
- No Scripture used ... only jokes, stories, and global news
- Appealing to flesh / emotions

Unintentional mistakes due to lack of Bible knowledge, and / or lack of experience

Natural Talents Vs. God's Gifts:

Pete has good command of English and is gifted orator. He preaches great sermons and congregation is impressed. But there are many doctrinal errors.

What must we do?

REJECT (the false
teachers)

TRAIN (the weak)

Beware of False Prophets

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Jeremiah 23:16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They are filling you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

REJECT

(the false
teachers)

I Timothy 6:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the **doctrine of Christ**, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ **If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not** into your house ...

II Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away**.

II John 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, **do not receive him** into your house nor greet him;

II Timothy 2:17 And their message will **spread like cancer**.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**.

Reject

I Timothy 6:3-5

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.**

Good teachers promote godliness and unity

Reject the teacher if:

teaching is corrupt (3),

character is flawed (4),

motives are wrong(5),

fruit is envy and strife (4)

TRAIN
(the weak)

TEST
(the new)

ACTS 18: ²⁴ And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. ²⁶ And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. ²⁷ And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: ²⁸ For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Not a novice (I Timothy 3:6, context of leadership or ministry)

We should Train & Test before putting anyone in ministry

5 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 fellowship hall. Church members find it convenient to shop right after church. Church is growing, Business is booming!

Must the church do anything?

What did Jesus do?

¹¹ And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. ¹² And Jesus went into the temple of God, and **cast out all them** that sold and bought in the temple, and **overthrew the tables** of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, ¹³ And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.
Matthew 21:11-13

Don't mix Ministry + Money

Don't tolerate distractions in Church

If we are not upset by meaningless distractions in church,
God will be upset with us!

6 Gray Areas

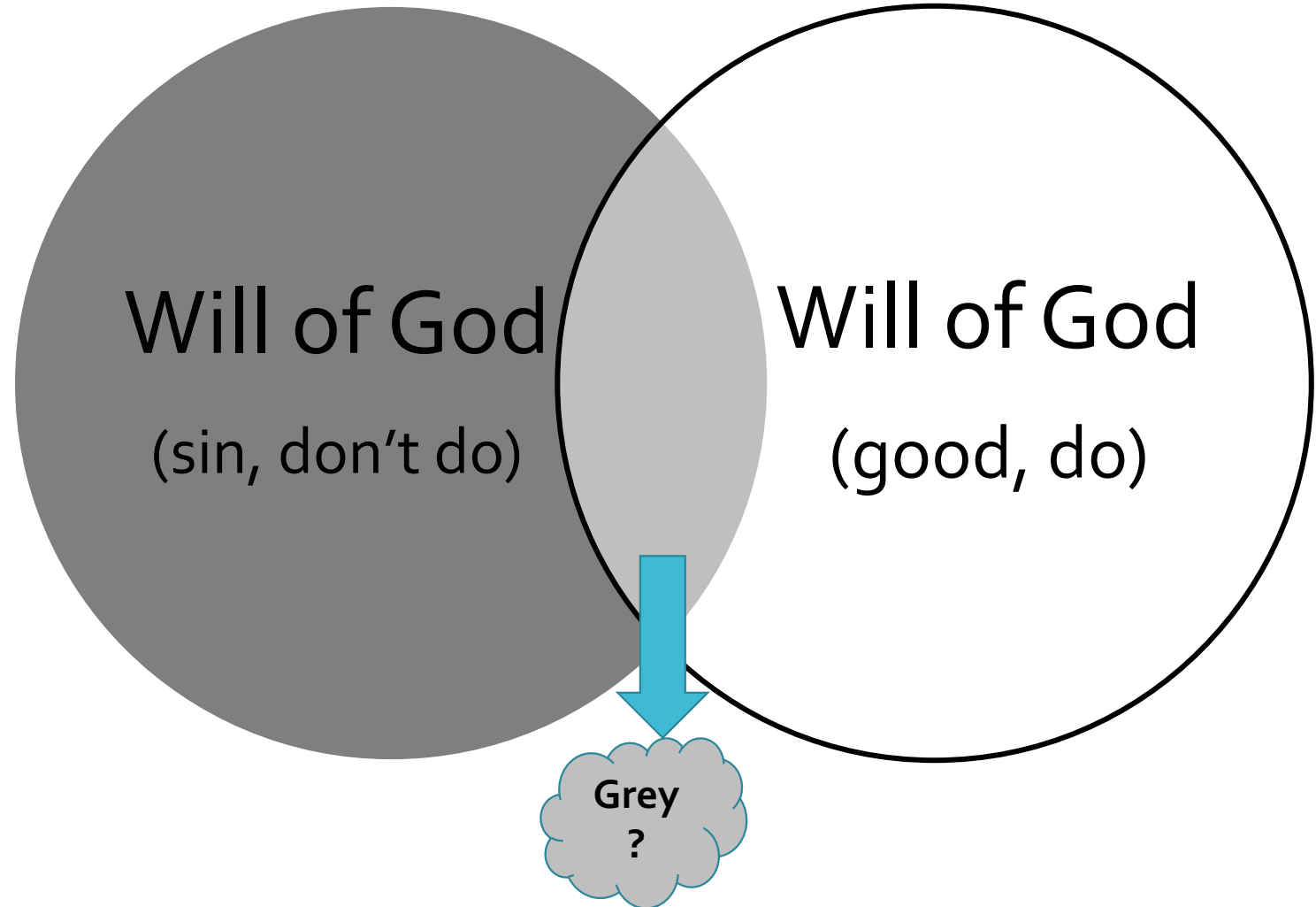
Anthony is a college student and attends local church regularly. He is convinced that he must not kill (commandment # 8) but he is unable to find answers to his real temptations (movies, music, marijuana, etc.). Anthony feels that since some “modern issues” are not directly addressed in the Bible, the church has no right to tell him what to do.

1. Can Bible guide us in all areas of our life?
2. What is a “gray area”? What are some examples of gray areas in moral/ethical behavior and practices?
3. How must we respond to disputes/questions about ‘gray areas’? Does bible give us the freedom to offer ‘flexible counsel’ in “gray areas”?

Black & White decisions

Revealed will of God in the Bible

(example, 10 commandments)





Gray Area

A behavior or practice that is not specifically permitted or prohibited in the Bible.

Danger of Culture:

Culture can turn
B&W into Gray!




Movies
Music
Drugs
Gambling
Body Piercings/Tattoos
Dancing
Home schooling
Clothing
Lifestyle choices
Etc.


Examples of Gray Areas

Progressive Response to Gray dilemmas


PAUSE... Avoid impulsive action or acting under peer pressure!




PRAY ... How does the Holy Spirit prompt you?



PRINCIPLE ... Will it violate any biblical principle?



PURPOSE ... Will the final outcome be beneficial?



STOP or **Ponder** or **PROCEED**

Some
biblical
questions to
ask ... our
actions
impact God,
us, and
others.

GOD

- Will it glorify God? (I Corinthians 10:31)

MYSELF

- Will it defile my body, which is God's temple? (I Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Is it beneficial (I Corinthians 10:23)
- Do I have peace in my spirit/conscience? (I Corinthians 10:25-29, John 16:13)
- Is it addictive and eventually enslave me? (I Corinthians 6:12)

OTHERS

- Will it be a stumbling block to other believers? (I Corinthians 8:9, 10:32, Romans 14:13, 20)
- Is it evidence of loving others? (Luke 6:31, Mathew 22:39)

Still not sure?

Pray	Pray more and seek God's counsel (Psalms 32:8, I will instruct thee and teach you in the way you should go)
Confirm	In multitude of counselors, there is safety (Proverbs 11:14)
Peace	Do not dispute over doubtful things (Romans 14:1)
Don't judge	Do not judge based on your personal bias and limited knowledge. Be flexible and open to reasonable rationale

First Things First

... We must fix
Ourselves before
Fixing others and
the church

Order in Church will be
easier if there is discipline
in our **personal lives** and in
our **homes**.

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