

Church Discipline and Encouragement

August 23, 2015

HISTORICALLY, CHURCH DISCIPLINE (*dealing with sin in the midst*) **HAS CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS IN ONE OF TWO EXTREMES:**

1. **Lack of Discipline**
2. **Authoritarian Discipline**

PROBLEMS WITH THE LACK OF DISCIPLINE:

1. **God's name and glory is blasphemed and dishonored before the world**

2 Samuel 12:14-15

"Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die. And Nathan departed unto his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick."

2. **sin spreads like an eating, festering sore or cancer, eventually destroying the church**

2 Timothy 2:16-18

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

PROBLEMS WITH AUTHORITARIAN CHURCH DISCIPLINE:

1. **legalism - focus on rules and outward performance instead of relationship and heart condition**

Matthew 23:23-24

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

2. **man's administration and tradition added to God's Word**

Mark 7:8-13

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

3. **Lordship of Jesus Christ usurped**

Colossians 2:16–17

16 *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:*

17 *Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

4. **self-righteous pride and criticism**

Galatians 2:11–13

11 *But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.*

12 *For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.*

13 *And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.*

5. **strife and division in the Body of Christ**

3 *John 10*

"Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."

Biblical Phases of Responding to Sin in the Church

1. **Encouragement** - *preventive, positive, affirming, gentle reinforcement*

Hebrews 3:13

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

2. **Personal and Confidential Confrontation** - *member-to-member, relationship-based*

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."

3. **Intervention by Church Authority** - *issues of sin affecting the community*

Matthew 18:17

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

ENCOURAGEMENT IS TAKING THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST SIN BY PROVIDING POSITIVE MOMENTUM FOR HOLINESS

Hebrews 3:12–14

12 **TAKE HEED** (*to perceive by the use of the eyes, turn the eyes to, to take care*), brethren, **LEST THERE BE IN ANY OF YOU AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF, IN DEPARTING** (*desert, depart, withdraw, become faithless*) **FROM THE LIVING GOD.**

13 **BUT EXHORT ONE ANOTHER DAILY**, while it is called To day; **LEST ANY OF YOU BE HARDENED THROUGH THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN.**

14 **FOR WE ARE MADE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST, IF WE HOLD THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE STEDFAST UNTO THE END.**

EXHORT (*parakaleo - para by the side of - kaleo to call or invite*)

to call to one's side, encourage, appeal, beg, beseech, comfort, implore, plead

Will encouragement really work as a deterrent to sin?

1. *Man wants rules and policy - God says to encourage.*
2. *Man wants leverage and control - God says to encourage.*
3. *Man wants control mechanisms - God wants relationship.*
4. *Man wants the law - God wants grace.*
5. *Man promotes legalism by outward performance - God grows the desire to please by encouragement.*

John 8:10–11

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

ENCOURAGEMENT PUSHES PEOPLE TO GOD, REMINDING AND RESETTING THE FOCUS AND PRIORITY ON GOD

Zechariah 8:20–22

20 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, And the inhabitants of many cities:

21 **AND THE INHABITANTS OF ONE CITY SHALL GO TO ANOTHER, SAYING, LET US GO SPEEDILY TO PRAY BEFORE THE LORD, AND TO SEEK THE LORD OF HOSTS: I WILL GO ALSO.**

22 **YEA, MANY PEOPLE AND STRONG NATIONS SHALL COME TO SEEK THE LORD OF HOSTS IN JERUSALEM, AND TO PRAY BEFORE THE LORD.**

Acts 15:30–32

30 **SO WHEN THEY WERE DISMISSED, THEY CAME TO ANTIOCH: AND WHEN THEY HAD GATHERED THE MULTITUDE TOGETHER, THEY DELIVERED THE EPISTLE:**

31 **WHICH WHEN THEY HAD READ, THEY REJOICED FOR THE CONSOLATION** (*paraklesis – a calling near, encouragement, solace, comfort*).

32 **AND JUDAS AND SILAS, BEING PROPHETS ALSO THEMSELVES, EXHORTED THE BROTHERS WITH MANY WORDS, AND CONFIRMED** (*episterizo – to strengthen more, establish, confirm*) **THEM.**

ENCOURAGEMENT BUILDS HEALTHY, AFFIRMING, TRUSTED, INTIMATE AND COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS

1 Samuel 23:14–18

14 And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

16 **AND JONATHAN SAUL'S SON AROSE, AND WENT TO DAVID INTO THE WOOD, AND STRENGTHENED (to become strong, courageous, resolute) HIS HAND IN GOD.**

17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

18 **AND THEY TWO MADE A COVENANT BEFORE THE LORD:** and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

Romans 15:30–32

30 **NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S SAKE, AND FOR THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT, THAT YE STRIVE TOGETHER WITH ME IN YOUR PRAYERS TO GOD FOR ME;**

31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

32 **THAT I MAY COME UNTO YOU WITH JOY BY THE WILL OF GOD, AND MAY WITH YOU BE REFRESHED.**

ENCOURAGEMENT MUST HAVE THE CHANNELS OF RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNICATION TO BE TRANSFERRED

Hebrews 10:24–25

24 **AND LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER TO PROVOKE UNTO LOVE AND TO GOOD WORKS:**

25 **NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER: AND SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.**

Colossians 4:7–9

7 **ALL MY STATE SHALL TYCHICUS DECLARE UNTO YOU,** who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

8 **WHOM I HAVE SENT UNTO YOU FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, THAT HE MIGHT KNOW YOUR ESTATE, AND COMFORT YOUR HEARTS;**

9 **WITH ONESIMUS, A FAITHFUL AND BELOVED BROTHER, WHO IS ONE OF YOU. THEY SHALL MAKE KNOWN UNTO YOU ALL THINGS WHICH ARE DONE HERE.**

Ephesians 6:21–22

21 **BUT THAT YE ALSO MAY KNOW MY AFFAIRS, AND HOW I DO,** TYCHICUS, A BELOVED BROTHER AND FAITHFUL MINISTER IN THE LORD, **SHALL MAKE KNOWN TO YOU ALL THINGS:**

22 **WHOM I HAVE SENT UNTO YOU FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, THAT YE MIGHT KNOW OUR AFFAIRS, AND THAT HE MIGHT COMFORT YOUR HEARTS.**

ENCOURAGEMENT INSPIRES WHOLE-HEARTED DEVOTION AND SERVICE TO GOD

2 Chronicles 35:1–4

1 Moreover Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

2 **AND HE SET THE PRIESTS IN THEIR CHARGES, AND ENCOURAGED** (*chazaq - to grow firm and strong, strengthen*) **THEM TO THE SERVICE OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD,**

3 And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,

4 And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.

Deuteronomy 3:28

God speaking to Moses... **"BUT CHARGE JOSHUA, AND ENCOURAGE HIM, AND STRENGTHEN HIM: FOR HE SHALL GO OVER BEFORE THIS PEOPLE, AND HE SHALL CAUSE THEM TO INHERIT THE LAND WHICH THOU SHALT SEE."**

1 Thessalonians 2:11–12

11 **AS YE KNOW HOW WE EXHORTED AND COMFORTED AND CHARGED EVERY ONE OF YOU, AS A FATHER DOTH HIS CHILDREN,**

12 **THAT YE WOULD WALK WORTHY OF GOD, WHO HATH CALLED YOU UNTO HIS KINGDOM AND GLORY.**

ENCOURAGEMENT GIVES COURAGE IN THE FACE OF GREAT DANGER AND TRAGEDY

2 Chronicles 32:6–8

6 And he set captains of war over the people, and **GATHERED THEM TOGETHER TO HIM IN THE STREET OF THE GATE OF THE CITY, AND SPAKE COMFORTABLY** (*NAS & ESV - "encouragingly"*) **TO THEM, SAYING,**

7 **BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, BE NOT AFRAID NOR DISMAYED FOR THE KING OF ASSYRIA, NOR FOR ALL THE MULTITUDE THAT IS WITH HIM: FOR THERE BE MORE WITH US THAN WITH HIM:**

8 **WITH HIM IS AN ARM OF FLESH; BUT WITH US IS THE LORD OUR GOD TO HELP US, AND TO FIGHT OUR BATTLES. AND THE PEOPLE RESTED THEMSELVES UPON THE WORDS OF HEZEKIAH KING OF JUDAH.**

ENCOURAGEMENT GIVES RENEWED STRENGTH AND HOPE TO ENDURE, SUFFER LONG AND NEVER GIVE UP

1 Thessalonians 3:1–13

1 Wherefore **WHEN WE COULD NO LONGER FORBEAR,** we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

2 **AND SENT TIMOTHEUS, OUR BROTHER, AND MINISTER OF GOD, AND OUR FELLOWLABOURER IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, TO ESTABLISH YOU, AND TO COMFORT YOU CONCERNING YOUR FAITH:**

3 **THAT NO MAN SHOULD BE MOVED BY THESE AFFLICTIONS: FOR YOURSELVES KNOW THAT WE ARE APPOINTED THEREUNTO.**

4 **FOR VERILY, WHEN WE WERE WITH YOU, WE TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT WE SHOULD SUFFER TRIBULATION; EVEN AS IT CAME TO PASS, AND YE KNOW.**

5 **FOR THIS CAUSE, WHEN I COULD NO LONGER FORBEAR, I SENT TO KNOW YOUR FAITH, LEST BY SOME MEANS THE TEMPTER HAVE TEMPTED YOU, AND OUR LABOUR BE IN VAIN.**

6 **BUT NOW WHEN TIMOTHEUS CAME FROM YOU UNTO US, AND BROUGHT US GOOD TIDINGS OF YOUR FAITH AND CHARITY, AND THAT YE HAVE GOOD REMEMBRANCE OF US ALWAYS, DESIRING GREATLY TO SEE US, AS WE ALSO TO SEE YOU:**

7 Therefore, brethren, **WE WERE COMFORTED OVER YOU IN ALL OUR AFFLICTION AND DISTRESS BY YOUR FAITH:**

8 **FOR NOW WE LIVE, IF YE STAND FAST IN THE LORD.**

9 FOR WHAT THANKS CAN WE RENDER TO GOD AGAIN FOR YOU, FOR ALL THE JOY WHEREWITH WE JOY FOR YOUR SAKES BEFORE OUR GOD;

10 NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING EXCEEDINGLY THAT WE MIGHT SEE YOUR FACE, AND MIGHT PERFECT THAT WHICH IS LACKING IN YOUR FAITH?

11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

ENCOURAGEMENT PROMOTES SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Romans 1:11–12

11 FOR I LONG TO SEE YOU, THAT I MAY IMPART UNTO YOU SOME SPIRITUAL GIFT, TO THE END YOU MAY BE ESTABLISHED;

12 THAT IS, THAT I MAY BE COMFORTED (*symparakaleo - to be comforted and strengthened together*) TOGETHER WITH YOU BY THE MUTUAL FAITH BOTH OF YOU AND ME.

Acts 11:21–24

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 WHO, WHEN HE CAME, AND HAD SEEN THE GRACE OF GOD, WAS GLAD, AND EXHORTED THEM ALL, THAT WITH PURPOSE OF HEART THEY WOULD CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Ephesians 4:15–16

15 BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, MAY GROW UP INTO HIM IN ALL THINGS, WHICH IS THE HEAD, EVEN CHRIST:

16 FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY FITLY JOINED TOGETHER AND COMPACTED BY THAT WHICH EVERY JOINT SUPPLIETH, ACCORDING TO THE EFFECTUAL WORKING IN THE MEASURE OF EVERY PART, MAKETH INCREASE OF THE BODY UNTO THE EDIFYING OF ITSELF IN LOVE.

ENCOURAGEMENT BRINGS HOPE, REFRESHING, RENEWED ENERGY AND REST

Philemon 4–7

4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

5 HEARING OF THY LOVE AND FAITH, WHICH THOU HAST TOWARD THE LORD JESUS, AND TOWARD ALL SAINTS;

6 that the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

7 FOR WE HAVE GREAT JOY AND CONSOLATION IN THY LOVE, BECAUSE THE BOWELS OF THE SAINTS ARE REFRESHED BY THEE, BROTHER.

2 Timothy 1:16–18

16 THE LORD GIVE MERCY UNTO THE HOUSE OF ONESIPHORUS; FOR HE OFT REFRESHED ME, AND WAS NOT ASHAMED OF MY CHAIN:

17 **BUT, WHEN HE WAS IN ROME, HE SOUGHT ME OUT VERY DILIGENTLY, AND FOUND ME.**

18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and **IN HOW MANY THINGS HE MINISTERED UNTO ME AT EPHEBUS**, thou knowest very well.

ENCOURAGEMENT PLEASES GOD AND WILL BE REWARDED

Malachi 3:16–18

16 **THEN THEY THAT FEARED THE LORD SPAKE OFTEN ONE TO ANOTHER: AND THE LORD HEARKENED, AND HEARD IT, AND A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE HIM FOR THEM THAT FEARED THE LORD, AND THAT THOUGHT UPON HIS NAME.**

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, In that day when I make up my jewels; And I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 **THEN SHALL YE RETURN, AND DISCERN BETWEEN THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED, BETWEEN HIM THAT SERVETH GOD AND HIM THAT SERVETH HIM NOT.**

Isaiah 35:3–6

3 **STRENGTHEN YE THE WEAK HANDS, AND CONFIRM THE FEEBLE KNEES.**

4 **SAY TO THEM THAT ARE OF A FEARFUL HEART, BE STRONG, FEAR NOT: BEHOLD, YOUR GOD WILL COME WITH VENGEANCE, EVEN GOD WITH A RECOMPENCE; HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU.**

5 **THEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND SHALL BE OPENED, AND THE EARS OF THE DEAF SHALL BE UNSTOPPED.**

6 **THEN SHALL THE LAME MAN LEAP AS AN HART, AND THE TONGUE OF THE DUMB SING: FOR IN THE WILDERNESS SHALL WATERS BREAK OUT, AND STREAMS IN THE DESERT.**