

Church Discipline and Confrontation

August 30, 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
2. **sin spreads like an eating, festering sore or cancer, eventually destroying the church** - 2 Timothy 2:16-18

PROBLEMS WITH AUTHORITARIAN CHURCH DISCIPLINE:

1. **legalism - focus on rules and outward performance instead of relationship and heart condition** - Matt 23:23-24
2. **men's administration and tradition added to God's Word** - Mark 7:8-13
3. **Lordship of Jesus Christ usurped** - Colossians 2:16-17
4. **self-righteous pride and criticism** - Galatians 2:11-13
5. **strife and division in the Body of Christ** - 3 John 10

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."

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL CONFRONTATION

Galatians 6:1–4

- 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**.
- 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
- 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.
- 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

1. OVERTAKEN (*prolambano - caught*)

Don't address every failure or sin. Give the Holy Spirit and the person time and space. Step in when the person is "caught", unable to free themselves. Step in when patterns and habits are emerging. Be sensitive to God's timing and method.

James 5:19–20

- 19 Brethren, if any of you do **ERR** (*to wander, deceived, go astray*) from the truth, and one **CONVERT** (*to turn back, return*) him;
- 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall **save a soul from death**, and shall **hide a multitude of sins**.

1 John 5:16–17

- 16 **IF ANY MAN SEE HIS BROTHER SIN A SIN WHICH IS NOT UNTO DEATH, HE SHALL ASK, AND HE SHALL GIVE HIM LIFE FOR THEM THAT SIN NOT UNTO DEATH. THERE IS A SIN UNTO DEATH: I DO NOT SAY THAT HE SHALL PRAY FOR IT.**
- 17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

2. FAULT (*paraptoma - transgression, to fall away*)

Don't meddle in decisions and areas of personal discretion. Don't usurp the role and work of the Holy Spirit. Others don't have to be like you to be right with God.

Colossians 2:16-23

"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."

Don't confuse disagreements with sin.

Colossians 3:12–13

- 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
- 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, **IF ANY MAN HAVE A QUARREL** (*momphe - - complaint, blame, to find fault*) **AGAINST ANY**: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

3. SPIRITUAL

Don't correct others when you're struggling spiritually. Your discernment, attitude and method will be wrong.

Matthew 7:5

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and **THEN SHALT THOU SEE CLEARLY** to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

4. RESTORE (*katartizo* - to get ready, prepare, equip, mend)

Restoration is the objective; not superiority, not leverage or selfish advantage, not punishment, not criticism, not guilt, not condemnation. Jesus was more concerned with what followed Peter's denial than the actual denial. Jesus was more concerned with restoration than judgment (for the sin).

Pharisees focus on judging the sin and consequently condemning the one who sinned; children of God focus on forgiving and restoring the one who sinned.

Luke 22:31–34

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 **BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR THEE, THAT THY FAITH FAIL NOT: AND WHEN THOU ART CONVERTED, STRENGTHEN THY BRETHREN.**

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

5. MEEKNESS (*prautes* - gentleness, humility, mildness of disposition)

You want the person to respond to the truth of God's Word and make their own personal decision of conviction. You don't want them coerced by the intensity, emotion or fierceness of your delivery. You don't want your delivery or attitude to be a hinderance or stumbling block to them receiving the truth.

2 Timothy 2:24–26

24 **And the servant of the Lord must not STRIVE (*argue, quarrel, debate, fight*); but be GENTLE (*epios* - gentle, mild) unto all men, apt to teach, patient,**

25 **In MEEKNESS (*prautes* - gentleness, humility, mildness of disposition) instructing those that oppose themselves; IF GOD PERADVENTURE WILL GIVE THEM REPENTANCE to the acknowledging of the truth;**

26 **And that they may RECOVER THEMSELVES out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

6. LEST THOU ALSO BE TEMPTED

Human nature uses the faults and weaknesses of others for personal advantage, promotion and leverage over others, as Paul goes on to describe in Galatians 6:2-4.

Galatians 6:1–4

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.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 **FOR IF A MAN THINK HIMSELF TO BE SOMETHING, WHEN HE IS NOTHING, HE DECEIVETH HIMSELF.**

4 **BUT LET EVERY MAN PROVE HIS OWN WORK, AND THEN SHALL HE HAVE REJOICING IN HIMSELF ALONE, AND NOT IN ANOTHER.**

Luke 18:11

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, **GOD, I THANK THEE, THAT I AM NOT AS OTHER MEN ARE, EXTORTIONERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN AS THIS PUBLICAN.**"

Luke 22:21–24

21 But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.

22 And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

23 **AND THEY BEGAN TO INQUIRE AMONG THEMSELVES, WHICH OF THEM IT WAS THAT SHOULD DO THIS THING.**

24 **AND THERE WAS ALSO A STRIFE AMONG THEM, WHICH OF THEM SHOULD BE ACCOUNTED THE GREATEST.**

Philippians 1:15–16

15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 **THE ONE PREACH CHRIST OF CONTENTION, NOT SINCERELY, SUPPOSING TO ADD AFFLICTION TO MY BONDS:**

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Relationship cleanses from sin; not rules, not man-made disciplines. Restoration to relationship is what is needed, not separation, not punishment..

James 5:16

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

1 John 1:5–9

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ask Questions - Don't Assume

Mark 9:33–35

33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house **HE ASKED THEM, WHAT WAS IT THAT YE DISPUTED AMONG YOURSELVES BY THE WAY?**

34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

Keep It Confidential

Matthew 18:15

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, **GO AND TELL HIM HIS FAULT BETWEEN THEE AND HIM ALONE:** if he shall hear thee, **THOU HAST GAINED THY BROTHER.**"