

# Church Discipline and Cleansing

September 6, 2015

## 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."*

## Galatians 6:1–4

1 Brethren, if a man be **OVERTAKEN** (caught) in a **FAULT** (transgression), ye which are **SPIRITUAL**, **RESTORE** (get ready, equip, mend, put back into place) such an one in the spirit of **MEEKNESS** (gentleness, mildness of disposition); 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.

## CONFRONTING FALSE DOCTRINE

### Titus 1:13–14

13 Wherefore **REBUKE** (expose, convict, reprove) **THEM SHARPLY** (to cut abruptly), that they may be sound in the faith;

14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

### Titus 2:15

"These things **SPEAK**, and **EXHORT**, and **REBUKE WITH ALL AUTHORITY**. Let no man despise thee."

### 1 Timothy 1:19–20

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; **WHOM I HAVE DELIVERED UNTO SATAN, THAT THEY MAY LEARN NOT TO BLASPHEME**.

**Matthew 16:6–12**

6 Then Jesus said unto them, **TAKE HEED AND BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES AND OF THE SADDUCEES.**

12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, **BUT OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE PHARISEES AND OF THE SADDUCEES.**

**Galatians 2:11–14**

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.

14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, **I SAID UNTO PETER BEFORE THEM ALL, IF THOU, BEING A JEW, LIVEST AFTER THE MANNER OF GENTILES, AND NOT AS DO THE JEWS, WHY COMPELLEST THOU THE GENTILES TO LIVE AS DO THE JEWS?**

**CONFRONTING PERSONAL SIN**

**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.”**

**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.**"

**James 5:19–20**

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert 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.**

**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.

**Luke 22:31–32**

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.**

**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.**

**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.**

*We are cleansed from sin by relationship. God's presence, open and honest communion with Father, cleanses from sin, both the guilt and the power. Fellowship with Father, by the Word and prayer, transforms the heart causing us to love righteousness and hate sin.*

*Yet the consequences of sin keep us from going to God. Fear and shame causes us to hide from God and hide our sin, keeping us from the only solution.*

*We try to cover and correct our sin in our own efforts through religious disciplines, will-power, man-made rules and traditions, facades and hypocrisy, only making it all worse.*

**Genesis 3:6–10**

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 **AND THE EYES OF THEM BOTH WERE OPENED, AND THEY KNEW THAT THEY WERE NAKED; AND THEY SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER, AND MADE THEMSELVES APRONS.**

8 **AND THEY HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD GOD WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY: AND ADAM AND HIS WIFE HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD AMONGST THE TREES OF THE GARDEN.**

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, **I HEARD THY VOICE IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID, BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; AND I HID MYSELF.**

**Genesis 3:21**

**"UNTO ADAM ALSO AND TO HIS WIFE DID THE LORD GOD MAKE COATS OF SKINS, AND CLOTHED THEM."**

*"God must do everything for us. Our part is to yield and trust."*

*"We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts."*

— [A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God](#)

**Ezekiel 16:1–14**

1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

4 And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

5 None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

6 AND WHEN I PASSED BY THEE, AND SAW THEE POLLUTED IN THINE OWN BLOOD, I SAID UNTO THEE WHEN THOU WAST IN THY BLOOD, LIVE; YEA, I SAID UNTO THEE WHEN THOU WAST IN THY BLOOD, LIVE.

7 I HAVE CAUSED THEE TO MULTIPLY AS THE BUD OF THE FIELD, AND THOU HAST INCREASED AND WAXEN GREAT, AND THOU ART COME TO EXCELLENT ORNAMENTS: THY BREASTS ARE FASHIONED, AND THINE HAIR IS GROWN, WHEREAS THOU WAST NAKED AND BARE.

8 NOW WHEN I PASSED BY THEE, AND LOOKED UPON THEE, BEHOLD, THY TIME WAS THE TIME OF LOVE; AND I SPREAD MY SKIRT OVER THEE, AND COVERED THY NAKEDNESS: YEA, I SWARE UNTO THEE, AND ENTERED INTO A COVENANT WITH THEE, SAITH THE LORD GOD, AND THOU BECAMEST MINE.

9 THEN WASHED I THEE WITH WATER; YEA, I THOROUGHLY WASHED AWAY THY BLOOD FROM THEE, AND I ANOINTED THEE WITH OIL.

10 I CLOTHED THEE ALSO WITH BROIDERED WORK, AND SHOD THEE WITH BADGERS' SKIN, AND I GIRDED THEE ABOUT WITH FINE LINEN, AND I COVERED THEE WITH SILK.

11 I DECKED THEE ALSO WITH ORNAMENTS, AND I PUT BRACELETS UPON THY HANDS, AND A CHAIN ON THY NECK.

12 AND I PUT A JEWEL ON THY FOREHEAD, AND EARRINGS IN THINE EARS, AND A BEAUTIFUL CROWN UPON THINE HEAD.

13 Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and broidered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.

14 And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: FOR IT WAS PERFECT THROUGH MY COMELINESS, WHICH I HAD PUT UPON THEE, saith the Lord GOD.

#### Ephesians 2:8–10

8 FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD:

9 NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.

10 FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

#### Galatians 5:2–6

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, THAT IF YE BE CIRCUMCISED, CHRIST SHALL PROFIT YOU NOTHING.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 CHRIST IS BECOME OF NO EFFECT UNTO YOU, WHOSOEVER OF YOU ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE.

5 FOR WE THROUGH THE SPIRIT WAIT FOR THE HOPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH.

6 FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANY THING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION; BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE.

#### 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."

**Revelation 3:14–20**

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 **BECAUSE THOU SAYEST, I AM RICH, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING; AND KNOWEST NOT THAT THOU ART WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND, AND NAKED:**

18 **I COUNSEL THEE TO BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE, THAT THOU MAYEST BE RICH; AND WHITE RAIMENT, THAT THOU MAYEST BE CLOTHED, AND THAT THE SHAME OF THY NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR; AND ANOINT THINE EYES WITH EYESALVE, THAT THOU MAYEST SEE.**

19 **AS MANY AS I LOVE, I REBUKE AND CHASTEN: BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE, AND REPENT.**

20 **BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR, AND KNOCK: IF ANY MAN HEAR MY VOICE, AND OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM, AND WILL SUP WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.**