

WHEN CHURCH GOES WRONG

A LESSON ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND REBUKE

*"Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee:
rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."*

~ Proverbs 9:8

1. When Church Goes Wrong

- a. 2 Tim 2:15 is what we are trying to do. The tool we use is 2 Tim 3:16.
- b. God's word is perfect – but we do this work among imperfect people.
- c. Sometimes church goes wrong, and it must – Phil 3:12, 2 Tim 4:1-4
 - i. Problems: doctrinal, communication, behavioral, lack of charity
- d. Growth requires improvement, which requires identifying error - Eph 4:15, 1 Th 3:13
- e. The wrong thing to do = acquiesce, ignore, quit. The right thing to do = 2 Tim 4:2

2. Discipline at Church?

- a. Why do "disciples" of Christ resist discipline? – Prov 9:8, scorners do not grow.
- b. We are not talking about spankings, curses, lashes, prison, fines, losing salvation
- c. Discipline takes the form of instruction, rebuke, admonition, correction, rejection
- d. These things hurt: no one likes to be wrong or faulted, but it is needed – Eph 4:15
- e. The difference between rebuke and an unkind word is charity – 1 Cor 13:6

3. What Discipline Looks Like

- a. It is done first by God's word working in everyone that believes - 2 Tim 3:16
- b. Second, by those in authority given the duty - 1 Cor 4:15, 1 Th 5:12
- c. It is done by love, a parent should understand the need – Prov 29:15, 2 Cor 12:14
- d. Done by the spiritual, or the elders. Children do not discipline parents – 1 Tim 5:1
- e. It is clear, not vague – 1 Cor 3:1-2; 1 Cor 5:1-5, 5:13; 2 Tim 2:17, 1 Tim 5:20.
- f. In preaching, singing (Col 3:16), in private (Gal 2:2), or in public Gal 2:11

4. The Result of Discipline

- a. Depends on person's response to the rebuke by faith.
- b. Not revenge or malice, the goal is edification – Titus 1:13, 1 Tim 1:20; 2 Cor 7:8-12
- c. Not as to enemies, but to brothers – compare Matt 18:15-17 to 2 Thess 3:15
- d. It may be that the person is rejected, or need to leave – Titus 3:10
- e. All rebuke should be done in love to promote obedience to God – 2 Cor 2:4-9

Member of the Body “Bill of Rights”

1. You have a right to believe the gospel of Christ unto salvation – Rom 1:16, Eph 1:13
2. Christ is your one Lord and head, and you are answerable to him above all – Col 2:10, 1 Tim 2:5
3. Your salvation cannot be revoked by anyone or by any work you do under grace – Eph 2:8, Titus 3:5
4. You are forgiven of Christ for all your sins – Col 2:13
5. You are justified before God by faith and are at peace with God – Rom 5:1
6. Your responsibility is to show yourself approved unto God and not unto men – Gal 1:10, 2 Tim 2:15
7. You are not under law, but under grace; you can stand fast in liberty – Gal 5:1, Rom 6:14
8. You can avoid those who teach wrong doctrine – 1 Tim 6:5, Rom 16:17
9. You can withdraw yourself from disorderly behavior – 2 Thess 3:6
10. You can identify corruption among elders – 1 Tim 5:1, 5:19
11. Let no one despise your youth – 1 Tim 4:12
12. You have a right to purpose in your own heart about giving – 2 Cor 9:6-8
13. You need not follow circumcisions, rituals, prohibitions, holy days, Sabbaths, fastings to be in Christ – Col 2:16
14. You have a right to the rewards granted by virtue of being in Christ – Col 2:18
15. You have the right to be persuaded in your own mind, your own conscience – Rom 14:5
16. You can appeal to the judgment seat of Christ where you will stand alone – Rom 14:12
17. You can bear fruits of the Spirit at any time – Gal 5:22-23