



# JAMES 5:19-20

A Call to Care About Restoration



# People in the church are aware of those straying from the truth (5:19a)

*<sup>19</sup> My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth...*

- Those who are part of a local church are connected and involved with fellow attendees and church members
- “*brothers*” – refers to all the “*brothers and sisters*” who are part of a local assembly of believers
- Straying and falling away are consistent threats, even in the best places of biblical instruction and fellowship
  - *Colossians 4:14*
  - *2 Timothy 4:9-10*
- In our relationships and interactions, we will be able to take note of those experiencing the alluring draw of worldliness
  - *Hebrews 3:12–13*

# People in the church are aware of those straying from the truth (5:19a)

- **Why do each of us need to be encouraged to be on the lookout for the straying?**
  - *It is too easy to deny personal responsibility by playing down ability and opportunity*
  - *Sometimes the participation in commiseration leads to buffering biblical care and concern*
  - *Typically, nominal, or no attempts are made, to seek out the straying and speak the truth to them in love*
  - *Often concern is shared with an elder or small group leader hoping they will act*

# People in the church are aware of those straying from the truth (5:19a)

- Pastors are to help the church to be prepared to do the work of ministry
  - *Ephesians 4:11–16*
- Knowing the truth means we should share the truth
  - *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

# People in the church restoring the straying are supporting vital eternal blessings (5:19b-20)

*and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering*

- *brings back a sinner* - effort has been made to speak the truth in love and encourage repentance
  - *Galatians 6:1–2*
    - The concern for those straying from the path of obey the truth is expressed by those in the church who are striving to walk in obedience, not perfection – *you who are spiritual*
    - The purpose of all pursuit and confrontation is to be restoration – *restore him*
    - It is not heavy handed or fueled with anger and wrath – *spirit of gentleness*
    - Humble awareness of personal weakness shows sensitivity rather than superiority – *keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted*
    - Coming alongside the wayward to help them return to God and truth is loving – *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*
- Caring enough to confront wayward brothers and sisters should be a consistent practice of every follower of Jesus in the church

# People in the church restoring the straying are supporting vital eternal blessings (5:19b-20)

- Most of those straying from the church will initially be defensive, but we trust the Spirit of God to illuminate the truth of God and grant a spirit of repentance to the people of God
- Some who resist biblical admonition will experience the disciplining love of God in a powerful and personal way
  - *Hebrews 12:7–11*

*will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins*

- The death the disobedient are saved from could be from the disciplinary death brought about by a defiant child of God
  - *1 Corinthians 5:1–5*
- The death of the disobedient could be eternal death by separation from God for eternity, proving that the spiritual life they professed was not the spiritual life they possessed
  - *1 John 2:19*

# People in the church restoring the straying are supporting vital eternal blessings (5:19b-20)

- How does restoring the wanderer *cover a multitude of sins*?
  - *In context it cannot mean ignoring, down playing or sweeping someone's sins under the carpet*
  - *Biblically, covering sin means that we don't allow their sin to keep us from helping them*
    - Proverbs 10:12
    - Proverbs 17:9
    - 1 Peter 4:8
- Following Jesus and caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ are part of our Christian responsibility that we commanded and empowered to do
- By pursuing those who are straying we put God's love on display for all to see
  - *1 John 4:11-12*

# Questions to Consider

- In what ways are you showing concern for brothers and sisters in Christ straying from the truth?
- Are you open to others showing concern for you by addressing your departures from the truth?
- Will you make the commitment to be a part of the church in the biblical way God commands and in the spiritual love and power He provides?



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