

Iron sharpens Iron – Biblical Perspective!

Dealing with Sin in the Church

Scriptures: Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.

Overview

In these matters the primary goal of leadership (pastor) is to promote accountability and a safe place for restoration. We celebrate what Christ has done, it is his blood that covers and forgives sin. The church can only reflect that finished work in our standards and presentation of the gospel. Leadership while considering our own humanity are to hold ourselves and others responsible to avoid the reproach that sin brings.

Leaders Responsibility:

- The leaders must understand their role of leading sinners to salvation and encouraging their journey of transformation. (Time)
- Not prematurely using gifted and talented individuals before developing character and conduct. Don't rush in integrating them into the community of faith. Know them that labor among you.
- At some point make members accountable – and stress that decisions have consequences. I Tim 5:20
- Emphasize the standards in God's house are determined by the scriptures.
- Make sure the spiritual culture doesn't override or undermine biblical standards.
- Restore those who have fallen, fairly, equitably, and lovingly. (Timeframes, egregiousness of situation, best for their healing considerations)
- Provide a plan to aid them in their healing/recovery – provide the LOGOS for their soul.
- Restoration must remain focus: Matthew 18:11-14

Other things that Affect God's House:

I Corinthians 1:11 – Chloe's House – Contentions

Paul's issue with Peter – Galatians 2:11-21 (Prejudice/Self Righteous)

Paul discussing Demas defection 4:10

I Corinthians 11:18 Divisions

The Apostles Paul dealt with issues head on. When it was time to address a matter, he did so authoritatively, spiritually, and restoratively. We can't counsel what we should cast out but we can't demonize bad behavior.

Ministerial Staff:

- Avoid the Auntie/Uncle syndrome – pacify the individual (it is divisive)-
- Support disciplinary decisions even if you don't agree with them.
- Help in the restoration and recovery of that individual, through prayer, intercession (if you are privy to their status)
- Respond properly to inquiring minds – (rule: our platform is higher) You are either part of the problem or the solution.
- Ask God for wisdom – balance confidentiality and the need for deliverance (Psalms 24:3-4) Proverbs 11:13, Prov 17:9
- Your personal walk must reflect the church's standards.

Role of Church

- Avoid the appearance of evil. Come out from among worldliness.
- Avoids sending mixed signals that sin at times is permissible.
- Maintain personal standards of Holiness – Hebrews 12:5-12
- Spirituality key. Gal 6:1
- Refrain from Gossip, whisperings etc. which the scriptures say are unbefitting saints – Romans 1:29, 2 Cor 12:20 – Scriptures also condemns being busybodies and speaking of things that are not proper to mention. I Tim 5:13, II Thess. 3:11, Prov 20:19 – Study to be quiet – I Thess. 4:11 (opinions/lawful not expedient)
- I Tim 5:1 Remember proper protocol.
- Pray for spiritual maturity.

Discuss

The Believer

Matthew 18:15-20

- Confront the individual.
- If they do not repent bring 1 or 2 individuals to discuss.
- If they do not repent brought before the church.
- If they do not repent they are to be disfellowshipped or excommunicated.

I Cor 5:1-13 – Example Fornication

Restoration (vs 4)

- The Name of Jesus
- The Congregation
- The Authority of the Minister
- The Power of Jesus

Consequence for the Unrepentant (5)

- To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

Protect the other sheep (vs. 6)

- Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Interaction:

I Cor 5:9-11 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators; yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous or extortioners or with idolators; for them must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator or covetous or an idolator or a railer, or a drunkard or an extortioner, with such an one no not to eat. (vs. 12-13)

I Tim 1:20 Hymenacus and Alexandar whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Other Examples: Eli and his sons – I Sam 3:13