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Morning Service

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Teaching Elder

How to Address an Offense

Jesus knew His church was and would be made up of fallen men. He instructs us how members of the body should behave in order to not cause our brethren to stumble. The blood of our Savior presents us to God as clothed in white. The blood does likewise for His Church.

We are instructed to work out our salvation so we may present the world our best possible testimony. We are also to labor in our churches, ministering to our brethren and removing stumbling blocks. We cannot allow the the sins of our brothers to cause the world to blaspheme the name of God.

We must never forget that we are citizens of Heaven. It is therefore incumbent upon us to lean on the Law of God and forsake our own understanding for we are indeed ambassadors.

Today's message is a continuation of our series on how to address offenses. We will go over the purpose and the process of 'calling out' sins in others in a Godly and loving manner so as not to drive them away, but to drive them closer.

Notes

The whole point of discipline in the Church is to win back or gain brethren and to maintain an environment of conformity to God's commandments. There is a definite purpose and process for winning a brother to Christ.

Purpose

- To gain brethren who have strayed from righteousness. We must realize that all of us can stray into sin and the sin always leads to death.
- Sharpen the understanding of sin in our own lives as we seek to minister others out of their sinful habits.
- Learn how to have a humble spirit. We are not to beat people over the head with the Law. We are to win them into obedience with Grace.
- A spirit of active direction in the church encourages others to not fall into bad habits.
- Godly discipline maintains the integrity of the Church rolls. How many people do you know who do not go to church because they see hypocrisy? Can someone say that about your church?

Procedure

- Be willing to show fault in a loving way. Remember, you are not changing hearts. Only God can do that, and often times He will do it through believers who obediently counsel others with His Word, even when it may seem uncomfortable.
- We must have a knowledge of sin. Paul asks us to be full of knowledge and goodness. We must lovingly counsel others out of sin.
- We must always remember we are doing this out of obedience and nothing more. We as fallen creatures are unable to change someone's heart. We are only useful to God when we become humble like children and obey Him.

Application

Ask yourself the following questions;

- Have I seen activity in someone close to me that I have not addressed?
- Have I spurned counsel from others?
- What have the damages of hypocrisy been in my life? Do I have the determination to go forward and point it out when I see it in others?

Scripture References

Matthew 18:1-35 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (2) And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, (3) and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; (6) but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (7) "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! (8) "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. (9) "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell. (10) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. (11) ["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.] (12) "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? (13) "If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. (14) "So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish. (15) "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED**. (17) "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (18) "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. (19) "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. (20) "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (21) Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (22) Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (23) "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. (24) "When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. (25) "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. (26) "So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' (27) "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. (28) "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' (29) "So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' (30) "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. (31) "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. (32) "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. (33) 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' (34) "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. (35) "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Romans 15:14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

1 Timothy 5:19-20 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. **(20)** Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful *of sinning*.

Romans 16:17-19 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. **(18)** For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. **(19)** For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

Titus 3:10-11 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, **(11)** knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.