



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No. 35, August 29, 2017 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter **is a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

The New Testament Call to CHURCH DISCIPLINE!

(1 Corinthians 5:1-13, NKJV) It is actually reported *that there is sexual immorality [Other translations: Fornication or whoredom]* among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles— that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you... ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ *deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh*, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

⁶ ... **Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.** ⁸ **Therefore** let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ *Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.*

¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner— not even to eat with such a person.

¹² For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? ¹³ But those who are outside God judges. **Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”**

TODAY, GREAT NUMBERS of Adults, youth, and even children, (even with membership in churches), are addicted to some form of sexual sin. And IF and when sexual sins are finally exposed and brought to the attention of the legal authorities, the all too common approach of the churches is to COVER IT UP! **Church leaders** and/or rank and file members will literally **THREATEN** anyone who dares to blow the whistle. (This is not hear-say; in times past, I have been threatened.)

DEEPER TRAGEDY— caught church staff members [pastors included] at times have been allowed to quietly resign and move on to a new ministry in another church! Caught youth might be given a private slap on the hand— but for their very PUBLIC SIN there will be no form of public rebuke or discipline. IN FACT, MOST PASTORS WOULD NOT EVEN THINK OF ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT CHURCH DISCIPLINE! **Why? Families would leave the church and/or get the pastor fired.**

EVEN SO, beginning in 1978, Southside started down the road of seeking to obey the Word of the LORD as to Church Discipline.

Doubtless, there have been times when we have failed to discipline. NEVERTHELESS, by the grace and mercy of God, we have sought to obey God in the carrying out of public rebuke and/or various other levels of Church discipline.

With our faces before God and with Bibles open to 1 Corinthians 5 and with fingers on verse 5, we have cried out, ***“LORD JESUS, we are not at all sure what all this means, but in obedience to your Word we are taking the action called for in 1 Corinthians 5:5 on behalf of ___ !”***

Yes, a few families left our church because of our practicing church discipline. Yes, there were those who spread evil reports. **Nevertheless, EVERY OCCASION was a humbling and purifying occasion for the Southside church family; and** there were times when disciplined ones later repented and THANKED US for loving them.

One man reported to me that while he was under Church Discipline, ***people from other churches, including pastors, said that Southside was a very unloving and judgmental church...as evidenced by the acts of discipline; and that many people did what he had done— thus he was welcome to worship with them!*** (This man also told me that he KNEW that their counsel did not agree with the Word of God!)

For over a year, we were not sure what had happened with this man. However, a year later, at his request, he came back to Gallatin on a Sunday so as to ***THANK SOUTHSIDE FOR LOVING HIM!*** He stated that had Southside not so loved him, he was sure

that he would still be in a life of sin. Sadly, others whom we disciplined, remained sealed in their sin and rebellion.

BOTTOM LINE: Regardless of the temporal outcome—Church Discipline carried out in a Biblical fashion is LOVE IN ACTION.

What follows is from an outline used in preaching on this subject many years ago. Please get your Bibles and DIG IN! **We need a FRESH reminder of these truths.**

Sadly, in many churches the common belief is that folks can be saved and keep their sin as usual. In the minds of many, their sin is nobody else's' business. In such atmospheres, many pastors face the reality of fearing the congregation they are supposed to serve more than they fear God.

Many desire to honor the LORD. They agonize. But they neither preach the Biblical truth about nor attempt to practice Biblical Church Discipline— being afraid of the COST, they allow open sin to continue.

This compromising response to open sin is as old as the tragedy of Aaron with Israel. As recorded in Exodus 32, Aaron's message basically was, ***"You can keep your idols and also worship God; and I will help you accomplish your goals!"*** THEY HAD A GREAT TIME until God's man with God's Word came; and God's wrath followed!

I. THE NECESSITY OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE: The holiness of God demands it. Love demands it. Love for the lost demands it. The health and unity of the Body demands it. Holiness is not an option— Hebrews 12:14. Holy Love is not an option— 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 John 4:7-8.

II. THE PURPOSES OF DISCIPLINE: **(1) The purpose** in the life of the offender is restoration. (Galatians 6:1) **(2) The purposes** in the life of the church body are holiness, purity, and keeping one another from profaning the Lord's Supper. (I Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:27) **(3) Another purpose** for those in the Body is that they/WE might fear. (I Timothy 5:20) **(4) Still another purpose is to keep God's name from being blasphemed among the unsaved masses. (Titus 2:1-5)**

III. PROBLEMS REQUIRING DISCIPLINE

- 1.** Unresolved personal conflicts violate Christian love and thus must be dealt with: (Matthew 18:15-20)
- 2.** Divisiveness which violates Christian unity: (Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10; II Thessalonians 3:6-15)
- 3.** Scandalous lives of sin which violate Christian purity: (I Corinthians 5:1-13; I Thessalonians 5:14)
- 4.** False doctrine which violates Christian truth: (I Timothy 6: 3-5)

IV. SOME DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES:

- 1. Admonition,** reproof, rebuke, and warning— which may be private or public: Romans 15:14; I Thessalonians 5:14; II Timothy 3:16; I Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 10:24-25.
- 2. Marking-** Romans 16:17.
- 3. Sharp rebuke-** Titus 3:10.
- 4. Withdrawal of fellowship-** I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thess. 3:6-14.
- 5. Excommunication and deliverance to satan-** I Corinthians 5:5

V. THE PROPER ATTITUDE OF DISCIPLINE: Meekness and Gentleness- Galatians 6:1. Sorrow, love, readiness to forgive, with redemption as the goal- II Corinthians 2:4-7

VI. STEP BY STEP PROCESS OF CARING, CONFRONTING LOVE:

- 1. GO** to brothers and sisters when things are right (Romans 16:1-2; I Corinthians 12, 16:15)
- 2. GO** to God in prayer and in behalf of each other (Acts 12:1-5; Colossians 1:9-12; I Samuel 12:23-25)
- 3. GO** before God for the cleansing of your own soul (Joshua 7:10-13; Matthew 7:1-5)
- 4. GO** privately to each other in meekness with the goal of restoring (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15; Romans 15:14; I Corinthians 4:14; I Thessalonians 5:14)
- 5. GO** with one or two more to restore, if private admonition fails (Matthew 18:15-16)
- 6. GO** tell the matter to the Church body, if steps 4 and 5 fail (Matthew 18:17)
- 7. If there is still no positive response of repentance**, then “if he (or she) neglect to hear the church, let him (her) be to thee as a heathen man (woman) and a publican”. (Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 5:4-5, 11, 13) All of this is with the hope that there will even yet be repentance.
- 8. When there is repentance**, the Church is bound to bestow forgiveness, love, and reconciliation. (II Corinthians 2:1-11)

VII. Additional note: Even though we have outlined these 8 steps, please understand that the Bible examples of discipline do

not require us to be slaves to “8 steps”. On occasions certain discipline actions are simply announced. Of course, principles of truth, purity, compassion, meekness, and a goal of restoration are never optional.

1. Also, the direct thrust of Matthew 18:15-17 is for those occasions when an individual has transgressed against an individual.

2. Paul in I Corinthians 5:1-13 did not precisely follow each of these steps for the man’s sin that was against the whole Church. It was not a private offense against Paul.

VIII. If you or I ever need Church discipline let us pray that,

(1) THAT we will be in a church that will love us enough to do it.

(2) THAT we ourselves will not be so devious as to look for microscopic loopholes in the church procedure, so as to smokescreen and refuse to repent, on the grounds that the church did not follow proper procedure.

(3) THAT we will not be deceived by friends, pastors, and churches who will entice us to run to a church who will let us keep our sin!

IX. TRAGIC REALITY: Most even SO CALLED CONSERVATIVE, BIBLE-BELIEVING CONGREGATIONS do not practice Church Discipline. **In many churches, sin is running wild and unchecked.** Again, sadly, in many churches if the pastor were to teach the Biblical truth on this subject and begin to obey the Bible on this subject— there would be a MASS EXODUS from that church AND/OR the pastor would be quickly fired. **Dear Southsiders— THANK YOU** for being a congregation who desires that those who preach and teach be faithful to the Word

of God; and be faithful in seeking to apply the whole counsel of the Word of God to us all!

Grace to all in Christ! James /
www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM.

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; ☐ 6:30pm— Youth Activities and Bible Study— (Enter via double doors by gym)

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Studies in the Gospel of Luke! **[Luke 10:25-37]** ... Cindy Bell, teaching. **NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, September 5, 2017 @ 11:00am.**

Park at the BACK of church, come in DOUBLE DOORS under the AWNING... Door will be UNLOCKED by 10:30am... and locked back at 11:10am

***** MEN:** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **{New Study— The Epistle of JUDE}** AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

☐ **Sunday Services: September 3 — 9:30am - Sunday School**

10:45am - Worship Service / Noon MEAL / 1:00pm Service

☐ **Sunday Services: September 10 — 9:30am - Sunday**

School**10:45am - Worship Service / Noon MEAL 1:00pm Service****☐ Sunday Services: September 17 — 9:30am - Sunday School****10:45am - Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER****[NO MEAL 1:00pm or Early Afternoon Service]****5:00 - 7:00pm— HOME GROUPS****☐ Sunday Services: September 24 — 9:30am - Sunday School****10:45am - Worship Service / Noon MEAL 1:00pm Service****5:30PM-7:30PM— FAITHFUL MEN,****16 Concepts of a New Testament****Church**