



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 7, February 13, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church / 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 Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

DEADLY DANGER— Little Sins!

There's a common saying— ***"Don't Sweat the Small Stuff!"*** And, yes, there are many situations about which that may be good first step counsel! However, when it comes to SIN— *"It is the little foxes that spoil the vine;"* and the toleration of just a little sin opens the door to great destruction! **LET US HEAR THE WORD OF GOD:**

(1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 6, 9-11, 13b) "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. ... Your glorying is not good.

Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?... 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 idolaters; for then 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 idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. ... **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."**

As a local Church, we are called to be holy because God is holy. If we allow sin to go unchecked in our assembly we are hindering blessings God has for us; and opening the door to serious DESTRUCTION! This is why church discipline is so important.

The Corinthian Christians were CARNAL on many fronts, living in conflict and defeat; **there was** a man who called himself a Christian and was openly in an incestuous sexual relationship with his stepmother; and MOREOVER, the church was content to tolerate this evil behavior in their midst. Paul admonished them to take immediate action by excommunicating him from their midst so his fleshly nature could be destroyed... in order for his spirit to be saved.

Why was such strong action necessary? Paul knew that if this man were to get away with his sin that he was headed for serious, deepening judgment; and that others in the church might say to themselves,

"Well, if he's allowed to sleep with his stepmother, then I might as well go and partake of 'such and such' temptation I've been fighting for so long."

And before you know it, there would be a thief in the church stealing; an idolater worshipping a false god; or a drunkard getting

high from his wine. In other words, ***“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”***

SERIOUS REALITY: Although many churchgoers are in denial about this simple spiritual fact— ***one person’s sin can have a negative effect on the whole congregation.*** There are several examples of this in the Bible (see Joshua 7, for example). **Again, this is why church discipline is of the utmost importance. But, unfortunately, this rarely happens in today’s congregations. WHY?** There are several possible reasons:

(1) IT COULD BE we have become very comfortable with sin and don’t see it as being wrong. **(2) MAYBE** we fear men more than we fear God. **(3) PERHAPS** we are afraid to turn anyone off since the church has bills to pay and we need as many people as possible contributing to the church’s bank account. **(4) THEN AGAIN,** it could be that the offender is related to, or has close ties with influential people in the community and they can exact their revenge at a moment’s notice.

Whatever the excuses are, they should be null and void in comparison to God’s commands. It’s no wonder the 21st century church is in such sad spiritual shape in spite of the fact we, like the church at Corinth, boast about all the wonderful things God is doing in our churches.

Like Paul said, our glorying is not good if sin goes unchecked in our midst. It’s time to wake up and listen to the Holy Spirit. How long are we going to get by before God Himself takes action because we refuse to? Christ is coming back for a church without spot or wrinkle, so it would be better for us to

cooperate now than to later have to face the terror of falling into the hands of the living God.

How often have we closed our ears and shut our eyes to the corruption of sin within the body of Christ deeming it as being their problem and not our own? Or worst yet, how often have we even sat amongst those professing Christ as Savior and yet living immoral lives and we've welcomed and accepted such behavior? **(MORE AND MORE so called Bible-believing Christians and churches are openly accepting sodomy and justifying it by saying that humans should have the freedom to love whoever they want to... and that Christians are not supposed to JUDGE!)**

While it is not our place to judge those outside of the Body, it is most certainly our place to judge those within the Body. (1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 6:1) Not in arrogance or pride being puffed up, but in **Love** and **Compassion** with **Truth** in hopes that such a one may turn from their wicked ways, crucify their flesh, and surrender themselves completely back to the Lord.

The Bible says in **(Rom 15:14)** **“And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”** And again in **(2 Thess 3:13-15)** **“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, **note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.**** Yet count [him] not as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother.”

Therefore we note the purpose for admonishing a brother or sister is not to seize hold of an opportunity to expose their sin through

malice and bitterness. But because we **LOVE** them we admonish them for the purpose of correction in hopes this may bring upon Godly sorrow which leads to repentance.

Paul writes *“A little leaven, leavens the whole lump.”* Some Christians may say, “How is this so? I’m not the one serving the deeds of the flesh. I’m not the one living an immoral life. How can another brother or sister’s sin affect me?” (1) IF WE TOLERATE SIN in other believers in the Body, the Body to which we belong is DISEASED; and thus, we are diseased and in grave danger! (2) **Even if we are living our lives right in the eyes of God, those on the outside view and judge Christians as a whole.** Very seldom do they separate person from person to judge on an individual basis. When one member of the Body stumbles and fall into sin, the entire Body of Christ is judged and criticized and much evil is spoken of against “Christians” and not necessarily the person(s) who’s living in sin. Such negative views of Christians may prevent one who is lost from searching for the truth feeling that we are no better than they if our conduct is such as theirs.

I’ve heard it said by unbelievers: **“Christians are hypocrites, hiding behind the cross. They tell others not to do that which they themselves do!”**

YES, much of the world has a negative view of the Body of Christ because of the allowed sinful conduct of many (especially those in leadership— THUS, the world judges, and criticizes. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY KEEN to point out that Christians openly condemn the world for their sins, and yet totally ignore the very same sins operating within the church! **No wonder the world views the church as hypocrites!**

HOW CAN a church effectively help a non-believer who is bound by sin as an adulterer, or a fornicator, or one bound by drugs and alcohol; or those bound by gossip, greed, slander, bitterness, etc.... WHEN ALREADY IN THE CHURCH there are those bound by the same sins; but the church utters not a word of correction or judgment to them?

How can we say to one “you are a sinner, repent” and to another, we utter not a word and both, the believer and non-believer are bound by the very same sins?

Shouldn't they both be told of the importance of repentance? This is why the world calls us hypocrites, **for we condemn them of their sins and turn a blind eye and deaf ear to members of the church committing the same sins.**

There are many who are professing Christ and still living a life of sin and **their conduct is what the world sees** which in turn affects the entire Body of believers as again, Christians are judged as a whole by unbelievers.

Therefore, knowing all this— let us IN LOVE help one another in admonishing the wicked deeds of the flesh and no longer ignore the sin that dwells in the Body. We do this so that we may be a perfect and holy people in the eyes of the Lord, for this **HE COMMANDS.**

Let's not ignore sin, but rather expose it **IN LOVE.** Be encouraged by the words of **(James 5:19-20)** **“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”**

1 Corinthians 5:6, "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" Galatians 5:9, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

HERE IS AN OLD STORY... BUT it still illustrates the important truth of this article: Two teenagers asked their father if they could go to the theater to watch a movie that all their friends had seen. After reading some reviews about the movie on the internet, he denied their request.

"Aw dad, why not?" they complained. "It's rated PG-13, and we're both older than thirteen!" **Dad replied:** "Because that movie contains CURSING and portrays immorality, which is something that God hates, as being normal and acceptable behavior." **"But dad, those are just very small parts of the movie!** That's what our friends who've seen it have told us. The movie is two hours long and those scenes are just a few minutes of the total film! It's based on a true story and good triumphs over evil, and there are other redeeming themes like courage and self-sacrifice. **Even the Christian movie review websites say that!"**

"My answer is 'no,' and that is my final answer. You are welcome to stay home tonight, invite some of your friends over, and watch one of the good videos we have in our home collection. But you will not go and watch that film. End of discussion."

The two teenagers walked dejectedly into the family room and slumped down on the couch. As they sulked, they were surprised to hear the sounds of their father preparing something in the kitchen. They soon recognized the wonderful aroma of brownies baking in the oven, and one of the teenagers said to the other, **"Dad must be feeling guilty, and now he's going to try to make it up to us with some fresh brownies."**

Maybe we can soften him with lots of praise when he brings them out to us and persuade him to let us go to that movie after all." The teens were not disappointed. Soon their father appeared with a plate of warm brownies which he offered to his kids. They each took one.

Then their father said, "Before you eat, I want to tell you something: I love you both so much." The teenagers smiled at each other with knowing glances. Dad was softening. "That is why I've made these brownies with the very best ingredients. I've made them from scratch. Most of the ingredients are even organic. The best organic flour. The best free-range eggs. The best organic sugar. Premium vanilla and chocolate."

The brownies looked mouth-watering, and the teens began to become a little impatient with their dad's long speech.

"But I want to be perfectly honest with you. There is one ingredient I added that is not usually found in brownies. I got that ingredient from our own back yard. **But you needn't worry, because I only added the tiniest bit of that ingredient to your brownies.** The amount of the portion is practically insignificant. So go ahead, take a bite and let me know what you think."

"Dad, would you mind telling us what that mystery ingredient is before we eat?" "Why? The portion I added was so small. Just a teaspoonful. You won't even taste it." "Come on, dad; just tell us what that ingredient is." "Don't worry! It is organic, just like the other ingredients." "Dad!" **"Well, OK, if you insist. That secret ingredient is organic... dog poop."**

Both teens instantly dropped their brownies back on the plate and began inspecting their fingers with horror. "DAD! Why did you do that? You've tortured us by making us smell those brownies cooking for the last half hour, and now you tell us that you added dog poop!

We can't eat these brownies!" "Why not? The amount of dog poop is very small compared to the rest of the ingredients. It PROBABLY won't hurt you. It's been cooked right along with the other ingredients. You won't even taste it. It has the same consistency as the brownies. Go ahead and eat!" "No, Dad...NEVER!"

And that is the same reason I won't allow you to go watch that movie. **You won't tolerate a little dog poop in your brownies, so why should you tolerate a little immorality in your movies?** We pray that God will not lead us unto temptation, so how can we in good conscience entertain ourselves with something that **will imprint a sinful image in our minds that will lead us into temptation long after we first see it? Why do we tolerate any sin?**

On the day of the Passover, the Israelites were commanded to remove every bit of leaven from their homes. **Sin is like leaven**—a little bit leavens the whole lump (**1 Cor. 5:6**). Jesus, "our Passover" (**1 Cor. 5:7**), and sin, don't mix. "...Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (**2 Cor. 7:1**).

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. (**Ps. 97:10**). The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. (**Prov. 8:13**)

[The above article was compiled from several different articles, saved on my computer from years back, authors unknown.]

Abundant Grace to you all! James Bell /
www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

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... (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)**

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Luke 12:33ff ... Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 @ 11:00am.** ENTER at the back of the church building, through double doors, under the Drive Thru Awning. *[Doors open at 10:30am... The doors are re-locked at 11:10am]*

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **(STUDY: THE EPISTLE OF JAMES!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

REMAINING Sunday Services in February:

***** February 18— [3rd Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School /

10:45am— Worship Service & LORD'S SUPPER

HOME GROUPS meet on Third Sunday, most meet at **5:00pm**

***** February 25— [4th Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School / 10:45am— Worship Service

6:00pm- 7:00pm— NEW, MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE... for all the church family! WE BEGIN WITH A FOCUS ON EQUIPING FAMILIES... with Biblical teaching in all areas of Family Life— SAINTS of all ages have a VITAL ROLE to fill!

FIFTH SUNDAYS: (The next one is April 29th)... We gather to SING, give testimonies, and share Scriptures.

***** WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/