

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8

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"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16

Sounding Out The Faith

April 2023

"Train Up a Child" - Discipline of Children

Proverbs 23:23-25 "Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice."

The responsibility of bringing children into a family is not a decision that should be taken lightly. There is sacrifice on the part of a married couple that needs to be taken into consideration. That consideration needs to be thoroughly examined before marriage. The possibility of not being able to plan for children needs to be considered because sometimes even the best laid plan is not reality. Being "ready for children" is not a reality, although sometimes God does allow parents to make plans, but even the most prepared are never truly prepared for the responsibility of being accountable for another human being's soul. Preparing with the Word will at least give a little bit of a head start. If decisions have been made before children arrive it will be easier to stick to those decisions once children do arrive.

Genesis 18:19 "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

It is first and foremost the responsibility of the father to command the household, not just in the overall functioning of the home but especially in the spiritual aspect of the home. If the father doesn't have an already established fellowship with the Lord, how can he then teach the wife and the children to "keep the way of the Lord"? We know that Abraham was

not perfect and that he sinned against the Lord, but because of the fellowship that he had with God and the knowledge of the Word of God, he was able to quickly repent of sin and continue in that fellowship with the Lord. His heart was already converted before he had a wife and children to lead into that same conversion.

Psalms 127:1-5 "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

The love for children needs to be a self-sacrificing love. That is what the "labour" in Psalm 127 is talking about. It is a sacrificing love. When children are added to a home, they then become the focus of that home. The majority of the life of that family now is to focus on the family as a whole. There is no longer a focus on what the mom needs or what the dad needs, it is now what the family needs. "ME" time is no longer relevant after marriage because a choice has been made to no longer be an individual. When children are then brought into the marriage, we should already have taken focus off of "self" and began focusing on US so by the time children come along the US is just expanded. That doesn't mean that going out for dinner for an anniversary when someone offers to take

your children for an evening is wrong, but when there is a constant looking for an opportunity to take a break from parenthood, then there is a missed spiritual focus. The focus then becomes an issue of self instead of family. Parental, sacrificial love should be a mirror of the sacrificial love shown to mankind by Christ.

Hebrews 2:6-9 "But one in a certain place testified, saying, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Having children is not a status symbol of the wealth of a person's life. Children are a blessing from the Lord but there is no less value in the life of people who do not have children. Parenting is not a part time job or something to be chosen because that is what is expected from a couple getting married. Children are an investment that impacts every part of a person's life. Children are entrusted by the Lord to the parents to raise them as He sees fit. It is not something to enter into without weighing the cost personally and spiritually. Parents will be held accountable for the choices and decisions they make and how they affect the souls they are responsible to nurture in the Lord. We see over and over again in the Scriptures the price being paid for parents

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failing to teach their children to fear the Lord.

2 Samuel 18:33 “And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!” (David mourning losing Absalom to hell)

1 Samuel 2:27-30, 34 “And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh’s house? And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? And did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.” (Eli lost his place of service for the Lord and his sons lost their physical lives and reward of serving the Lord.)

There is no question that parenting is not an easy part of life, but it can be one of the more rewarding parts of life. The Lord promised that His Word is profitable in all aspects of life according to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

If there is belief in the Lord enough to entrust Him with the soul and believe that the way of salvation is one way, then why question His way to raise children? The Lord never indicated in His Word that discipline was something to be enjoyed but rather the enjoyment comes after the discipline has done the job it was meant to do. Hebrews tells that discipline in the moment is not happy but what it yields is what brings the enjoyment. It is grievous in the moment for the child but also for the parent.

Hebrews 12:9-11 “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

The parents’ goal for children should be the same as the Lord’s in this Scripture. Parents should want children to ultimately learn to respond to parents so that they will, in turn, respond to the Lord. Parents are practice for children to learn how God deals with them. Sometimes parents are hardheaded and the Lord doesn’t give up on them nor does He give in to them. He does not change what is right or wrong because He gets tired of dealing with His children or they wear Him out. He is consistent no matter how much time and effort He must put forth to get their attention because He loves them that much.

Proverbs 19:18 “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”

The Lord knew that children’s crying would pull at the heart strings of the parents and so He reminds them that time is essential in dealing with children. If a parent waits too long to start or to be consistent in the rearing of children, it will result in no hope for the children turning to the Lord. If they don’t learn to humble themselves to the correction of parents, they won’t learn to yield themselves to the wishes of the Lord. That is what shows the extent of a parent’s love. How far are they willing to go to bring about that yielding in order to teach the fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 13:24 “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

Proverbs 22:14 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

The Bible says it is a **must** to administer physical discipline to children.

Proverbs 23:13-14 “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shall deliver his soul from hell.”

That word “beat” means to “strike or smite”. That means there must be physical pain involved. Pain is a deterrent. When pain is experienced, there is an instinct that the Lord has given man to stay away from what caused it. Are adults always wise and never go back and do something that causes them pain? Unfortunately NOT! Sometimes they have to experience the pain more than once to really want to stay away from it. The pain of discipline should also be used as a tool to teach children about the pain that bad behavior, sin, caused Christ. His pain paid for our bad behavior, sin, to bring about the salvation from that sin. This shows the ultimate act of love that He was willing to endure the pain because of His love. The fact that the Trinity was willing to allow man to inflict that pain on Christ, because of man’s sin, causing Him to pay the wage for our sin is truly amazing. If for no other reason, children should be disciplined in order to recognize that there will be eternal discipline for sin if we don’t choose the payment of Christ to be applied for our sin.

Proverbs 19:27 “Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.”

Proverbs 23:12 “Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.”

Many times parents are quick to adhere to the advice of those who seem to have the “education” in the world as to how children are to be raised. At the same time, they tend to dismiss those who are educated in the Scriptures because it just doesn’t make sense to the flesh. Essentially, they are dismissing God, the Creator. He created man so He should know what is best for man. There must be a surety that the things that are dismissed, disregarded or accepted in our lives align with the Creator, **not** with the created. There is an accountability for how man applies God’s Word to the lives of the children they have been allowed to guide and direct.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Do we believe the promises of God or not? He is very plain in this Scripture that if parents will do their best to train them in **HIS** way, then they **won’t** depart from it. So if they do depart, simple logic tells us that the parents have failed somewhere with that child to get them to see Christ. That is a hard pill to swallow

but the Word does not say that they will go away and come back. It says they **will not** depart. The word “depart” there means “to turn aside, to be removed, to come to an end, rebel, withdraw, etc”. None of that sounds anywhere close to go and come back. It simply states “**will not depart**”.

Deuteronomy 5:29 “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!”

God only wants what is best for man and He knows that the best is to learn to love Him and appreciate what He has done for man. If man takes the time to fall in love with the Lord, then this is the same wish that parents will have for their children. Ultimately, actions speak volumes. No one is perfect, but God’s Word is and if they will try to stay in line with the Word, they will be less likely to completely fail their children. Each parent’s first goal for their child should be that they will be in the Bride of Christ one day.

Each parent will stand in judgement for the way that they raise their children and especially for where they guide them in this life. The children will also stand in judgment for how they received the instruction of the Lord in their lives. However, parents will answer for their part in raising and teaching the children, Are the children being pointed to Christ or are they being pointed to the world? It all depends on what is being done with the instructions that God has given man to go by.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Many times if there is failure with the children, parents give up and say, “There is nothing I can do now!” Well, a good place to start is by being honest with them, admitting failures and mistakes, and continuing to try to show them that God is worth loving.

There is never a place to “give up” in the Lord’s work. If you love your children, you will never give up trying to show them and teach them how to love the Lord, no matter how big they are. If they won’t listen, then get it to the grandchildren some way, somehow. Just because we mess up, it doesn’t mean that the Lord can’t still use parents to reach their children and grandchildren.

Being constantly in prayer and in the Books is essential. The Lord will work where He is allowed. If nothing else, care enough about others to warn them of your mistakes. That is true love when your desire is for others to succeed for God.

God is faithful to His Word and He has promised that if we will serve Him in truth, He will do great things!

Proverbs 22:4 “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.”

1 Samuel 12:24 “Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart;: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”

Self-Discipline

“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.” I Corinthians 11:31

Self discipline is the best discipline there is. He who disciplines himself in a Godly way, will need little discipline from others. The Bible teaches that children of God should exercise self-discipline, self-control, according to the Word of God.

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.” Romans 6:11-19

As you can see from these Scriptures, a child of God has the ability to use the inward man to have self-discipline over our ungodly flesh if we choose to **yield**, or exercise self-discipline.

Self-discipline requires a child of God to control the flesh and avoid certain undesirable things of our flesh. We are to put some things off that are concerning the old man and its practices.

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;” Colossians 3:5-9

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.” Ephesians 4:22, 25

“Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.” I Corinthians 8:13

“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” I Thessalonians 5:22

Notice, all these Scriptures **require** a child of God to act on behalf of the Spirit dwelling in them to overcome the flesh and the works of the flesh. As children of God, we are to put off those old works of the flesh.

We should not put things in front of us that would draw us toward those works of the flesh. This includes what we look at, what we hear, where we go, who we are with and the things that we think about. In the day in which we live, it is very easy to “zone” out and become lazy concerning our environment. This is a trap that Satan lays for God’s people in order to destroy our lives for the Lord and our witness to others.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.” Galatians 5:16-18

The battle with our flesh is a literal warfare. We must not set ourselves up for failure by allowing the things that feed our flesh to be prevalent in our lives. What is it that consumes your mind? What is it that consumes your time? What are you concentrating on throughout the day?

Not only do we have to remove negative influences from our lives, but we must also add the things of God to help to overcome our flesh. There are more positive things that we should add and cultivate in our lives for God than there are the negative to remove. God only wants the best for us and He never sets us up for failure. He only gives us everything we need to be successful in our lives for Him **IF** we will only surrender to **HIS WAY**.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31

Remember “whose” you are! We, as children of God and New Testament church members of local bodies, have the privilege to bring glory to God. Do we understand what a privilege this is? Do we understand that there is a small minority of people on this earth that are able to give God glory? Perhaps, if we would remember whose we are, why we are here, what we are to do and the privilege it is, we would be more concerned about doing what we do for His glory instead of our own.

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” I Corinthians 9:27

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

That word “prove” means to test or to approve. Our lives are literally to show God’s will to others. We cannot do that unless we walk in the Spirit through the Word of God.

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

As the Lord’s, local, New Testament churches we are to show the light of Christ in the world and to those other members of the local bodies we are members of. This can only be accomplished when we will practice self-discipline to avoid the things that feed our flesh and then add the things that feed our Spirit.

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.” II Timothy 2:1-5

Satan has lulled us into a sleep that this life is not so hard to endure. We go about our lives doing good, being good, not being as bad as the world and pretending that everything is okay, until, it all comes crashing down around us. Then we wake up and wonder how this could happen to us or our family?

The Word of God is clear and plain that this life for the Lord is a literal warfare. We are soldiers for the Lord. We must be prepared for battle on every hand. We must fight against our flesh constantly and be prepared spiritually in order to be a good soldier for the Lord.

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:21-27

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” John 14:21

“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” John 15:14

Church Discipline

The Bible teaches that the Lord's New Testament churches must exercise church discipline over their local membership. This is for the good of the whole church and also for the individual. The best discipline possible is that the local church teach and preach members to be conformed to Christ and renewed day by day through prayer and study of God's Word. The fellowship with God's people and efforts to win lost souls to Christ must be the focus of each local body. However, in spite of these efforts, each local church will still find it necessary at times to exercise discipline to members who will not heed God's Word.

It is the pastor's duty of each local church's body to reprove and rebuke of sin as he preaches and teaches in obedience to the Word of God. This is hopefully done proactively before there may be a cause, but it also must be reactive when the local body must exercise church discipline.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." I Timothy 4:1-5

"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth." Titus 1:10-14

"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." Titus 2:15

Church discipline is for two primary purposes. The first purpose is to keep the local church morally and doctrinally clean.

"Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:" I Corinthians 5:6-7

The second reason for church discipline is that the individual will repent. They are put out of the body and turned over to Satan so that they will repent. They need to be admonished by the Word of God so they will repent.

"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." II Thessalonians 3:14-15

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Jesus." I Corinthians 5:4-5

God's Word teaches His local churches how to deal with personal offenses in the local body. Jesus, Himself, gave instructions to His first church how that personal offenses were to be dealt with. When the Lord's instructions are followed for the reconciliation of brother with brother in the local body, differences can be settled without the church body even being aware of it. It is vital that every member of each local body be reminded that God has forgiven each of us for Jesus' sake, and not because we "deserved" forgiveness. It is also important to remember that God has forgiven each of us of a lot more than what we could ever possibly have to forgive our brother for.

"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:15

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5:23-24

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." Luke 17:3-4

If reconciliation does not happen, for whatever reason, between the two offended parties personally, or with two or three witnesses, then the local church must get involved. At this time, the personal offense has now become a matter for the local church to settle. The local body must now judge and negotiate reconciliation between the brethren by exclusion of one or both of the members. According to Scriptures, the excluded member(s) are refusing to hear the local church's admonition, therefore, being in contempt of the church. They must then be treated as a "heathen and a publican".

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee

and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Matthew 18:15-17

Public offenses require the church by the Word of God to remove the hindrance to the local body. These offenses are public sins that are known to the community and/or the members of the local body. If there is no repentance, the member must be excluded and removed from the membership of the local body.

"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. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 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. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." I Corinthians 5:1-13

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." II Thessalonians 3:6

Doctrinal offenses and causing division doctrinally can be a very difficult issue to be dealt with in a local body. Causing division and sowing discord in a local body can lead to great damage to a church. One who is caught agitating heretical doctrine should be reprovved sharply. The Scriptures are clear if they do not listen to admonition after the first and second time, they are to be rejected!

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Romans 16:17

"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself." Titus 3:10-11

This is a special prayer request for the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Rogers, Arkansas. They are seeking a pastor. They are a King James Version only church and use only unfermented grape juice for the Lord's Supper. They love the Lord and are willing to do the work of the Lord. Please pray that they can find the man the Lord would have. Contact: 406.431.8148 or 479.586.4298