

I. The Nature of Unrighteousness and God the Righteous Judge

A. Cancer - Unrighteousness or Sin is put forth in the scriptures not as a strike in the baseball game of life where you still get a few more pitches to get on base, but rather as a cancer that if left unattended to will spread and infect until it eventually corrupts and kills your entire being. It not only spreads within you and kills you, but it spreads to those who you touch with it and begins to kill them too. (Rom. 6:16-23; Jam. 1:15)

1. Deceptive - Unrighteousness and sin is also deceptive by nature, we rarely our sinful thoughts and actions for what it is. There are some types of sin that we can generally discern; there are others that we are totally blind to. Even the ones we can discern allude us in scope and consequence.

B. The Surgeon - In the church today the divine characteristic and title of God as the Righteous Judge is a subject that people tend to shy away from. I believe the reason for this is because we misunderstand the righteous judgment of God. Yes the judgment of God hurts and yes it is a fearful thing. However, the person with the cancer does not avoid the surgeon even though surgery is a painful and fearful thing. We need to understand that one of the great glories of God that we are meant to praise and wonder at is His perfect, precise, divine righteous judgment of sin. (Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 36:6; 48:11; 72:1)

1. Kingdom Hope - One of the most repeated promises of the prophetic scriptures of the glorious activities of the King upon his return to the earth is His righteous judgment coming down upon the sin and injustice that has corrupted and destroyed the earth and its inhabitants. In other words we who proclaim and strive to be a kingdom people should greatly desire his righteous judgment in our lives and church culture. (1 Cor. 6:2-5)

II. Judgment of Sin is a Lifegiving Gift to the Body

A. Fellowship of Believers - One of the most neglected aspects of the power and lifegiving nature of the fellowship of the church is the aspect of judgment of sin and the accountability and prayer support that accompanies it. Obviously we desire this aspect of fellowship to be done in the loving biblical process (Chris's Message Nov. 23rd). However, we must understand the Spirit of the living God who is the unrelenting righteous Judge lives inside of us. The burden to see someone free of the sin that destroys lives and destroys relationships with God

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and man is a God given burden. This is one of the most neglected, misunderstood, and many times unwanted gifts that the fellowship of believers offers to ones walk with God.

1. Expectations - When one considers what the church should be or how the church should act or why one would desire to be in the fellowship of the church is the expectation building relationships with those who will pray for you, care for you, walk with you, and yes you guessed it, judge your life and hold you accountable for righteousness sake. Not for the sake of rejection but for the sake of life and life abundant that Jesus promised and made a way for.
2. Wisdom Seeks Out Judgment - I believe that one of the reasons why so many churches have an unhealthy culture of accountability is because in many cases it has to be forced upon the unwilling. According to the exhortations of the scripture the wise and mature are those who seek out and desire the judgement of believers in their lives, and the foolish and immature reject and despise it. If this is not a common occurrence in your Godly relationships (lifegroups/close relationships) then I implore you to activate your faith in this arena, don't wait for it, invite it. (Pro. 27:5-8)
- B. False Love - Love has been clearly defined in our culture as making people feel good. Nobody likes the feeling of being accused or convicted of wrongdoing it does not feel good so therefore in our culture clear statements of right or wrong are seen as unloving and hateful. Since clear statements of right or wrong are the essence of judgement; judgment in itself is culturally viewed as hate as well. This false love culture is pervasive in the body of christ and there are myriad teachings of how judgment in the church is wrong or evil. This is absolute biblical nonsense. The scripture could not be any clearer, that we are called to judge right and wrong and call out sin and unrighteousness. Scripture is clear that we are to do it with compassion, mercy, sympathy, and patience. But we are to do it nonetheless.
- C. A Healthy Church Culture (Kingdom) - As endeavor to activate our faith in the area of healthy Godly judgment, accountability, and support (Chris Message Nov. 23rd) it is our earnest hope that it results in the fruits of repentance and growth in God and deepening of relationships with one another. But what do we do when it doesn't? What do we do when the judgement we bring to one another is rejected or goes unheard.

III. Reality of Repentance

A. Biblical Repentance - It is critical that we understand why there is a need for repentance, if the sinful attitude or actions persist it leads to death and destruction not only for the individual in open sin, but also to the ones that open sin affects. Without this understanding in place the biblical process and safeguards around this subject seem unreasonably excessive. There are 5 basic steps to the repentance process from rebuke to restoration.

1. Rebuke - This is the initial judgement or calling out of the sin.
2. Godly Sorrow - The individual repents by fully acknowledging the sin and its consequences (confession). They feel sorrow, shame, guilt, and brokenness over their sin.
3. Making Distinct Change - The individual commits to making clear change to their behavior by implementing accountability, safeguards, and practical steps towards restoration.
4. Maintaining Change - This change is maintained over time demonstrating to themselves and to others that they are truly different. There are sometimes stumbles along the way but it is immediately confessed and the individual continues towards change. The accountability, safeguards, and practical steps stay in place but are adjusted over this time.
5. Restoration - The individual proves over time that they have truly changed, restoring trust and confidence that the repentance process truly has taken place.

B. In Process Safeguards and Practicals - The heart of God and His people should always be full restoration. However, as we have repeatedly pointed out in this session the consequences of sin are absolutely devastating, and for some sins there are consequences that last a lifetime in this age. In light of this there are always safeguards and consequences of varying degrees that rightfully accompany the entire process of repentance.

1. Forgiveness and Boundaries - It is important that we understand that forgiveness and boundaries/safeguards are two different things.

Forgiveness has to do with the heart, and how you feel about something or someone.

Boundaries or Safeguards should not be based on emotion, they are put in place pragmatically based solely upon the practicals sinful actions and its consequences. That being said its important that boundaries are set with a clean heart towards the individual in the repentance process. (Gal. 6:1)

2. Unrepentant - During the process of repentance the individual is to be seen as repentant even though there are safeguards they are to be seen and understood as a wholehearted member (brother or sister) in the family of God. However, if at anytime in the process of repentance the individual chooses to stop participating in the process they are to be viewed as unrepentant and the same as an unbeliever. Scripture puts unbelievers into two categories.
3. Turned over to Satan - When an individual is excommunicated from the family of God they forfeit the protection that is found in the judgment of the church family that protects us from compromise. The calling out of sin is for the body, the power of prayers and work of the holy spirit in one's life to overcome sin is for the body. When one removes themselves from its protection they are turned over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh. This refers to suffering the consequences of a life given to sin and unrighteousness. To be clear their excommunication is done with the great hope that in feeling the consequences of a life of open sin that they will turn back to the Lord. (1 Cor. 5:5; 1Co 5:13; Job 2:6; Psa 109:6; 2Co 2:6; 2Co 10:6; 2Co 13:10; Act 26:18; 1Ti 1:20)
 1. Tax Collector/Heathen - Someone who is alienated from the family of God due to open immorality of both values and behavior.
 2. Pharisee - Someone who is alienated from the family of God due to false religion of both unbelief and false doctrine.
 - a. Now to be clear these unrepentant individuals are not demons, they are simply lost, just the same as you were without Christ. They need Jesus and you are here to show them the love of God and lead them back to the Lord.

IV. Judgment of the Unrepentant Member

A. Once a member of the church has been offered generous time and opportunity to repent but has openly and consistently rejected the process of repentance. The church family is to uphold the same safeguards and boundaries as it would to an unbeliever. This has to go back to the original need for judgement, sin its actions and influence is cancerous and destroys lives.

1. Do not Keep Company - Jesus and Paul are clear that you need to set up safeguards to be in the world of sin all around us, but not of the world. To be salt and light to a bleak and dark generation. Therefore the extortion of the scripture is to place a burden upon yourself to take care, and be weary of the influences in your life. Paul uses the term "do not keep company". The Greek word translated "company" means to have "intimate union or relationship with" or to "mix with" meaning there is no distinction between your lifestyle and values and theirs. This has everything to do with the power of influence and how its values, morals, and beliefs are affected by the influences in our lives. (Mat. 18:17; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thes. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:9-11)
2. In practical this simply means the church family does not view or give the unrepentant person the validation or privileges of being a member of the family of God. Every situation is unique and requires different levels of boundaries and leadership according to the level of unrighteousness the unrepentant individual is in.

V. Judgment of the Unrepentant Leader

A. Just as the scriptures say a leader in the church is subject to a stricter judgment. Why? Because the influence and destruction of that individuals actions are far greater. Therefore their repentance process is far stricter. Their entire process of repentance from rebuke to restoration is far more involved and public. The consequences of their actions are typically going to be more severe as well. The severity of the judgment is harsher to break through the pride that often accompanies leadership for the individual's sake and for the sake of keeping the body safe from the influence of darkness. (1 Tim. 5:19-20; James 3:1)