

MARC'S REMARKS

Religious Bumper Stickers

Bumper stickers aren't nearly as popular as they once were. Occasionally you'll see a car completely covered on its trunk area with maybe a dozen or so. There are a couple with religious sentiments from a long time ago that I remember.

"God said it. I believe it. That settles it."

I used to see that one a lot as a kid. I also remember hearing conversations from people who quibbled with it a little. They'd say something like, "It doesn't matter whether I believe it or not." In other words, if God said it, then *that* settles it.

And that's certainly true. It's what we can show from God's word that matters. The phrase "book, chapter and verse" still means something to us here at Franklin Drive. We want to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet 4:11).



Another bumper sticker I remember said, "**God is my co-pilot.**" And folks at church where I grew up liked to correct it by saying, "God is your pilot, not your co-pilot." In fact, eventually an alternative bumper sticker started popping up that said, "If God is your co-pilot, change seats!"

I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

—Jeremiah 10:23

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert
Rodney Ellis
Sam McJunkins II

Deacons

Jon Barry
Mike Davis
Dave Massey
Phillip Moore

Evangelist

Marc Hinds
(870) 772-0746
marc@txkChurch.com

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:15 A.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

www.txkChurch.com

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ
. Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-39

Be baptized in His name
. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death
. Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think on These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

2301 Franklin Drive • Texarkana, AR 71854 • (870) 772-0746

Volume xvii

July 11, 2010

Issue 28

Church Discipline

Dudley Ross Spears

The fellowship of the local church is a joint partnership that is as precious as gold and as sweet as honey. It is a privilege that is too often taken for granted. Outside of family, fellowship in the local church is the nearest of human ties. Fellowship is the mantle of strength, the beauty of holiness, the means of spiritual refreshment and contentment, the reality of working with those of like precious faith. It is something extremely important to Christians.

Sometimes it becomes the unpleasant task of the church to discipline those who are guilty of disrupting the sacred fellowship of the church. This is often called "discipline" or "withdrawing fellowship" or "excommunication." The only reason given in the New Testament for such an extreme act is to save the offender and purify the church. (1 Cor 5:5, 7). Some seem to think the purpose of disfellowshipping an ungodly

brother is to make the remainder of the local church afraid, but this seems rather to be an effect and not a designed cause.

Contrary to the belief that discipline is the way to get rid of undesirable members of the church or to remove the trouble makers, the real purpose of discipline is to win the souls of those who are "walking disorderly."

There is no such expression as "withdraw fellowship" or "church discipline" in the New Testament. There are, however, several passages that instruct us to "withdraw" ourselves from certain ones of the church who "walk disorderly" (2 Thess 3:6). We are told that a "factious man" is to be rejected after the first and second admonition (Titus 3:10) and to "mark and avoid" those who cause division contrary to apostolic teaching (Rom 16:17). The expression Paul used twice was "deliver such an one unto Satan" (1 Tim 1:20; 1 Cor 5:5).

Thanks for worshipping with our church family!

FAMILY TALK

About Our Sick

There's nothing urgent to report about our own church family, which is great. Unfortunately, several of our members have family who are experiencing difficult times right now.

Having already undergone extensive back surgery, **Helen Kinney's** son, **Bruce**, had additional work done this past week. He and the Kinney family are very much in need of our prayers.

John Haley's sister will start chemo soon, as she battles cancer.

Cathy Monaghan's brother-in-law, **Bill Self**, is in the last stages of his cancer.

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leading
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Bill Brittenham
Wendell Mobley
Dave Massey
Jon Barry

Prayers
Jack Calvert
Joel Avance

Scripture Reading
Zack McJunkins

Bulletins
Josh Moore
Hayden Ellis

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Joey Avance

Song Leading
Josh Moore

Lord's Supper
Mike Davis
Dee Minter

Prayers
Mark Davis
Russ Freeman

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
W. H. McFerrin

Song Leading
Phillip Moore

Prayers
Rodney Ellis
Zack McJunkins

Invitation
Marc Hinds

Church Discipline concluded from previous page

What is involved in being delivered to Satan has always given trouble to Bible students. Many of the learned scholars think that it was a special apostolic power which allowed them the power to inflict some bodily punishment, even including death, as in the case of Elymas the Sorcerer (Acts 13:8) and also in the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–5). J. B. Lightfoot, in his *Notes on the Epistles of St. Paul*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1898, makes this comment:

That physical suffering of some kind is implied, the purpose being remedial, appears from 2 Cor 2:6–7; 1 Tim 1:20; 2 Cor 13:10. . . . Thus the instrumentality of Satan is used for a divine end.

One more thought from Lightfoot is that he regarded the phrase, “destruction of the flesh” as

not merely a crushing of fleshly lusts, though this is involved in the expression; but physical suffering also.

Some think the expression means that the sinning brother has a hardship placed on him in that the grace of salvation is withdrawn from him and that he is cast out the presence of the “children of light” to walk in darkness till he comes to himself and repents. This is the proper view of the expression, it seems to me.


There are some things which become sin when there is a withdrawal of oneself from other brethren. Jude condemns “these [who] are the ones who cause divisions, wordly-minded, devoid of the Spirit” (Jude 19). Peter was wrong when he withdrew from Gentiles in the presence of Jews (Gal 2:2). Paul called it hypocrisy. The Bible teaches that it is a sin to have fellowship with the one who scripturally should be disfellowshipped from; and it is also a sin to disfellowship from the one who scripturally should be fellowshiped with.

Here are the sins which demand withdrawal when

they are continually uncorrected.

1. Digression (2 John 9–11).
2. Factiousness (Titus 3:10).
3. Splitting apart the church over opinions (Rom 16:17–18).
4. Perversion of the gospel (Gal 1:6–9).
5. Immorality (Eph 5:5; 1 Cor 5:11).
6. Covetousness (1 Cor 5:11).
7. Idolatry (1 Cor 5:11).
8. Revilence (abusive speech) (1 Cor 5:11).
9. Drunkenness (1 Cor 5:11).
10. Swindling (1 Cor 5:11).
11. “Walking disorderly” (2 Thess 3:6).

These are those who, when excommunicated, are to be socially avoided—do not bid them Godspeed, extend them the comforts of your home, or eat with them (2 John 10–11; 1 Cor 5:11).

Disfellowshipping a brother is very serious. For this reason, it is *always* an absolute last resort. We are all weak at times and need the help of our church family (Gal 6:1–2). 

Sermon Notes

TONIGHT ...

Facing Facebook

This morning, we looked at some of the inherent dangers of social networking. But, just because there are some possible downsides to this cultural phenomenon, does that mean it has no benefits too?

Tonight, we'll tip the balance toward the benefits of using Facebook and similar websites to keep up with each other. In fact, what the Bible has to say about this might surprise you.