**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 13**

**Questions: How can there be church discipline, when we are all sinners who deserve God’s wrath? Isn’t it hypocritical to refuse fellowship to people for doctrinal mistakes or moral failures when we are also capable of error?**

1. **How can there be church discipline, when we are all sinners who deserve God’s wrath***? Answer: Because Church Discipline is not based on addressing sin, but addressing unrepentance.*
   1. All people are sinners--in the sense that they daily sin much and deserve nothing but puninshment--but not all people are unrepentant sinners.
      1. Jesus said: “If your brother sins, rebuke him. **If he repents**, forgive him” (Luke 17:3).
      2. Jesus said, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you. But **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**” (Luke 13:3).
      3. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite [repentant] heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:17).
      4. “Then Jesus began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent” (Matt. 11:20).
      5. Jesus said, “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).
      6. “Repent therefore and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).
      7. “Then to the Gentiles also God has given repentance that leads to life” (Acts 11:18).
2. **Isn’t it hypocritical to refuse fellowship to people for doctrinal mistakes or moral failures when we are also capable of error?** *Answer: No*
   1. Scripture clearly requires the teaching of sound and pure doctrine
      1. Jesus said: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. (Matthew 28:19-20).
      2. “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. (1 Timothy 6:3-4).
      3. “As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine” (1 Tim 1:3).
      4. “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and rebuke those who contradict it” (Titus 1:9)
   2. Scripture clearly teaches that Christians are to judge other Christians.
      1. Jesus said: “If your brother sins against you, go and **tell him his fault**, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And **if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector**. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt 18:15-18)
      2. Jesus said: “**If your brother sins, rebuke him**. If he repents, forgive him” (Luke 17:3).
      3. “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?** God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you” (1 Cor 5:12-13).
   3. Scripture clearly teaches the church to sever the bonds of fellowship with those who openly, publically, and stubbornly persist in false doctrine or who make a practice of sinning.
      1. “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them” (Romans 16:17).
      2. “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolators, since they you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone **who bears the name of brother** if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—**not even to eat with such a one**” (1 Corinthians 5:9-11).
      3. “As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him” (Titus 3:10).
      4. “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8-9)
      5. 2 Thess 3:6 “Now we command you bretheren, 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.”
      6. 2 Thess. 3:14-15: “And if any 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.”
      7. 2 John 9-11: “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, **for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.**”
      8. “You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole lump? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Cor 5:5-7).