

Church Discipline in Thessalonica

- *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks **disorderly** and not according to the tradition which he received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not **disorderly** among you; 2 Th. 3:6-7*
- *ataktos ... signifies **not keeping order** (a, negative, tasso, to put in order, arrange); it was especially **a military term, denoting not keeping rank, insubordinate**;*
- *The church must be ever vigilant. Those who are walking without discipline must be **“withdrawn from”**.*
- *Jesus gave the steps ...*

Jesus Gave Steps for “Withdrawing”

- 15 Moreover if your brother sins against you, **go and tell him his fault** between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.
- 16 But **if he will not hear, take** with you **one or two more**, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'
- 17 And **if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.**
- **But if he refuses even to hear the church,** let him be to you **like a heathen and a tax collector.** Mt. 18:15-17

Steps Jesus Gave – Further Revealed

- Will not hear
 - Count as publican and Gentile
 - Practicing immorality
 - Keep no company
 - Causing divisions
 - Mark and turn away
 - Fictious man
 - Refuse
 - Blasphemer
 - Deliver to Satan
 - Disorderly brother
 - Withdraw - have no company
- Mt 18:15-18
- I Cor 5:9-11, 13
- Rom 16:17
- Titus 3:10
- I Tim 1:20
- II Th. 3:6,14

The Problem & Solution

- *Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. 1 Cor 5:6-7*
- When there is sin in the church, it is like leaven ... it leavens the entire lump so it must be purged so that doesn't happen.
- Looked at from God's perspective in 1Jn

The Problem & Solution

- *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1Jn 1:6-9*
- God is light – No Darkness
- Sin is darkness – There must be repentance & confession.
- If there is no repentance – the leaven begins

God has Shown Us

- *And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! 17 **Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction**, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 **And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.** Josh. 6:16-18*
- The city of Jericho is doomed ... everything in it is accursed (devoted to destruction).
- They must ALL be destroyed.
- If one takes of the accursed things he becomes accursed.
- Leaven of that curse leavens to the entire camp of Israel.

Israel – In Fellowship with God

- All “**men of war**” marched around Jericho once a day for six days Josh 6:2-3
- On the seventh day marched seven times around the city; Priest blow the trumpets and on the seventh time a great shout. 6:4-5
- The walls fell down flat 6:15
- *Everything went perfectly* 6:20-21
- *Courage rises with God’s help.* 7:2-4

With God's Fellowship Israel is Confident

- *2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, ... 3 they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few." ... 4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. 5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. Josh 7:2-5*
- They had lost the fellowship and help of God.
- Without that fellowship they were on their own.
- On their own they could not stand
- Their “*hearts melted like water.*”

Joshua Blames God

- *Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all — to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?" Josh 7:6-9*
- This is a very sad response.
- Joshua immediately thinks it must be God's fault

What Joshua did not know

- *But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel. Josh 7:1*
- The leaven had entered the camp.
- God's anger burned
- He would not help them
- They were on their own.

Israel Has Sinned

- *So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? 11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. Josh 7:10-13*
- This is the affect of sin in the camp. This is the leaven at work. God will not “*be with you anymore unless you destroy the accursed among you.*”

Sin Breaks Fellowship with God

- *15 Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.' ... 18 Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." Josh 7:15*

Joshua gets a confession

- *20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."*

This Withdrawing was Severe

- *Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.*
- *26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day. Josh 7:24-26*

Fellowship Restored

- *Now the Lord said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. 2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."
Josh 8:1-2*

We Don't Stone to Death ... But

- Will not hear Mt 18:15-18
 - Count as publican and Gentile
- Practicing immorality I Cor 5:9-11, 13
 - Keep no company
- Causing divisions Rom 16:17
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- Disorderly brother II Th. 3:6,14
 - Withdraw - have no company

Can We See the Parallel?

- But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things,
- Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant
- they have become doomed to destruction.
Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you
destroy the accursed from among you.
- all Israel stoned him with stones;
- So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His
anger.
- *The Misstep of one Soldier affected all!*

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- *Neither will I be with you anymore.*