

Church Discipline

“1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. 2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God. 3 He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. 4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree. 5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but they could not overpower him. 6 At that time, Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram by driving out the people of Judah. Edomites then moved into Elath and have lived there to this day. 7 Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, “I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me.” 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria. 9 The king of Assyria complied by attacking Damascus and capturing it. He deported its inhabitants to Kir and put Rezin to death. 10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. 11 So Uriah the priest built an altar in accordance with all the plans that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. 12 When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. 13 He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and splashed the blood of his fellowship offerings against the altar. 14 As for the bronze altar that stood before the LORD, he brought it from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the LORD—and put it on the north side of the new altar. 15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: “On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.” 16 And Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had ordered. 17 King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. 18 He took away the Sabbath canopy that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the LORD, in deference to the king of Assyria. 19 As for the other events of the reign of Ahaz, and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? 20 Ahaz rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.” (2Kings 16:1-20)

Ahaz was a wicked king in doing the following evil:

1- He did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God: He knew what God wanted him to do but he did not do it.

2- He followed the ways of the kings of Israel: He worshipped God and he worshipped idols and lived in sin (greed, lust, adultery, telling lies, cheating, pornography, willfully sinning, etc).

3- Sacrificed his son in the fire: Ahaz literally burned his children in fire, *“3 He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his children in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.” (2Chronicles 28:3)* Christians who allow their children to do wrong things like going out with girls, watching TV, attending parties, spending times with friends are exposing their children to demons and demonic influences, the same as burning their children, because as they are exposed to bad influences they are burning them with the fire of hell. Some Christians they know these things are wrong but they will allow their children to be in atmospheres that will cause them to expose to temptation and finally to fall in sin.

4- Engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites: To get involved in traditional practices that contradict the word of God or to do similar worldly things that the non-believers are doing (dancing class, yoga, taekwondo, etc).

5- He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree: He was getting involved in activities, parties and programs which are externally religious but in reality they are not representing God’s will or God’s way for life or worship.

6- He relied on people and money to solve his problems: When all these bad things he did, the Lord allowed that he will be attacked by enemies who came and wage war against him. *“5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but they could not overpower him. 6 At that time, Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram by driving out the people of Judah. Edomites then moved into Elath and have lived there to this day.”* The Lord allowed that to happen to Judah because of Ahaz sin, *“19 The LORD had humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had promoted wickedness in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the LORD.” (2Chronicles 28:19)* His enemies took a city from him, but they could not overcome him, because he used his money to hire the king of Assyria to fight for him, *“7 Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, “I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me.”* Ahaz used his money and the money of the temple and gave to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria to fight for him, *“8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria.”* Many Christians when they face troubles they will not think that these troubles coming to them due to their sins. *“22 In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD.” (2Chronicles 28:22)* Wicked Christians instead that they will repent they will use money to solve their problems, *“9 The king of Assyria complied by attacking Damascus and capturing it. He deported its inhabitants to Kir and put Rezin to death.”* But that did not help him and will not help the wicked unless they will repent, *“20 Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him, but he gave him trouble instead of help. 21 Ahaz took some of the things from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace and from the officials and presented them to the king of Assyria, but that did not help him.” (2Chronicles 28:20-21)*

7- He worshipped idols: *“10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction.”* Ahaz went to Damascus to show his loyalty to

Tiglath-Pileser, and while he was their *he saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction.*

8- He introduced idol worship to the temple: “12 When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. 13 He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and splashed the blood of his fellowship offerings against the altar.” Many Christian will not only live in idol worship but they will try to introduce their idols and evil ways into the church and pollute it with their worldliness. “15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: “On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.”

9- He hindered the process of cleansing and the standard of holiness: “17 King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base.” The sea was used by the priest to wash themselves and the basins were used to wash the sacrifices. So when Ahaz altered the setup in the temple, he disturbed the process of cleansing. Many Christians they will try to lower the standard of holiness and the discipline toward God’s word and that will affect the work of God and will promote sin among God’s people and in the churches.

10- He did not honor the sabbath: “18 He took away the Sabbath canopy that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the LORD, in deference to the king of Assyria.” The Sabbath canopy was used as shade for the crowded worshippers who were coming to the house of God and the royal entryway was a special way for the king to go to and to come from the Temple of God. He removed them because he was ashamed that the King of Assyria in his visit to Jerusalem will see him and the people of God with their intimacy to God. Many Christians they are ashamed that the non believers will see their intimacy and commitment to God.

For all the above reasons from the life of Ahaz, there will be many people like his example, therefore the call of God will become more mandatory and important in the life of the church and especially the pastors and the leaders of the church to teach such kind of people like Ahaz the right faith, to restrain them from doing wrong, to object their wrong and false suggestions and to fight against any trial to alter the sound teaching. The priest Uriah did not do well toward God and fail in doing the following responsibilities and allow harm to come to the temple, to the worship, to the worshipper and the people of God as the following points can explain to you.

1- Failure in discipleship: Ahaz and people like Ahaz with their sinful mind, life and practices that are affecting their families and children, needed to be orientated and taught with God’s word how to raise up Godly children, how to avoid worldliness, how to be away from evil and traditional practices and away from activities and programs although are religious externally but are non biblical. They needed to be taught about total commitment to God and his word and ways.

2- Train the people to trust God and not rely on man or money to solve their problems: “5 This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. 7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:5-8) Uriah the priest should direct Ahaz toward God through repentance from his sins. He should prohibit him to go to the king of Assyria and to use his money to bribe him for help. The church should teach the people who are in troubles that their problems will be solved only when they repent and turn back to God. They should teach them that spending money and using friends will not help them to solve problems unless they will come back to God.

3- The church should not give way for the money off the church to be used for wrong purposes: Ahaz took the money of the temple and gave them to the King of Assyria. The Priest Uriah should prohibit him to do that. The church should be discerning and not to allow the church members to use the money of the church for wrong and personal purposes.

4- Not to accept worldliness or idol worship or introduce them into the church: The priest Uriah complied totally with the wickedness of Ahaz, “16 And Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had ordered.” He should not accept the introduction of the new altar that Ahaz saw in Damascus. The Temple of God and all the contents of it were ordained by God who instructed David by The Holy Spirit to write all the details that was handed over to Solomon who built the temple. “12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. 19 “All this,” David said, “I have in writing as a result of the LORD’s hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.” (1Chronicles 28:12,19) The priest Uriah should not agree to alter anything in the Temple of God because all the details are ordained by God and are written in the scripture. The pastors and the church leaders should not accept alteration in the doctrine, teaching and the practices of the church because they are inspired and are instituted from the Scriptures. Alteration in the teaching and the doctrine will affect the salvation of the people and will direct the service and ministry of the church away from God and toward Satan and demons. Pastors should not be selfish or after their stomach to please the people. Uriah failed to rebuke Ahaz or to correct him because he was afraid that Ahaz will take away his sacrifices and offered them in the high places and he will lose that. Many pastors they are man pleasers and compromise with them because they are not willing to lose the people tithes, offerings and gifts. “7 The more priests there were, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their glorious God for something disgraceful. 8 They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. 9 And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.” (Hosea 4:7-9)

5- Not to allow those who are wicked to corrupt others: Ahaz told to Uriah the priest instruction not only about his sacrifices but as well as the sacrifices of the people, “15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: “On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and

their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.” When Uriah compromised with Ahaz, Ahaz started to push his corrupted view to other people. Many pastors who are weak, they yield to the wrong and the evil desires of their people and finally you find them fully surrender to the people and they are without stand. That will add more to the church corruption and bring more people away from God and make them lose their salvation.

6- To correct the people who lack knowledge: “15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: ***“On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.”*** Ahaz said to Uriah the priest that he will use ***the bronze altar for seeking guidance***, that can show that Ahaz was still want to use the temple and the priesthood to seek guidance from the Lord when he is cornered and does not know what to do. But the more serious than that is the following: Ahza said to the priest, ***But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance***: the fact that the bronze altar is not ordained by God for seeking guidance. Ahaz had wrong information that needed to be corrected by Uriah the priest who knew very well the word of God and His instructions in the temple worship. Many pastors they know very well the word of God but they will not tell the truth to their members who lack it in order to take advantage of them. That is cheating to their members by not telling them the truth.

7- When the church fail to correct their members and instruct them with the truth, that what is false and has introduced into the ministry will pass to the next generations: The new Altar that Ahaz introduced was kept to next kings; Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon and was only removed during the reign of Josiah, “12 ***And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.***” (2Kings 23:12) The church and the pastors should know that wrong practices and teaching that introduced in the ministry they need to be removed because it will affect and infect the next coming generations.

8- The church, especially the pastor and the leaders of the church should stand firm and steadfast against those who want to introduce wrong principles and false teaching: “1 ***The LORD said to Aaron, “You, your sons and your family are to bear the responsibility for offenses connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons alone are to bear the responsibility for offenses connected with the priesthood.”*** (Numbers 18:1) The church should not give way to fear and start to compromise. There is an incident where one of the Kings of Judah wanted to burn incense, a thing that is only the priest can do, and let us read how the priest in office combated him, “16 ***But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. 18 They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God.”*** (2Chronicles 26:16-18) The Lord supported the priest in his disciplinary action, “19 ***Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their***

presence before the incense altar in the LORD’s temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. 20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him. 21 King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house —leprous, and banned from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.” (2Chronicles 26:19-21)

9- The church should not be afraid, for the Lord had given authority and weapon for the church: “3 ***For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.***” (2Corinthians 10:3-6) The church has weapons from God, they are divine to deal with sins and strongholds. We do not use the weapons of the world. The world use nice talk, lies, smart answers, friends, gifts, contacts, money, influences, politics, manipulations, corruption, mutual respect and mutual interest. These weapons and methods the church should not use because they are the instruments of devil; and if the church adopts them and get infected of them that will bring destruction to the church. The church should use the word of God and as The Holy Spirit directing the pastors and the leaders of the church, which word and message they need to use and give to the church members and those who are under the care of the church. The work of God through His church is to bring His salvation to the lost souls and disciple those who come to Him. For this purpose the church should deal with sin and strongholds. The strongholds are the complex of sins (group of sins that are aggregating together and demons will use such places to hide and get entrance into the church). Strongholds are most of the time linked with traditional practices, adding to that pride, greed, jealousy, love of power, witchcraft, lies, etc. Therefore the bible studies should be carefully directed with the help of the Holy Spirit to combat those sins that the Devil is using as stronghold. Prayer, fasting, bible studies using the Word of God, and casting out demons are the weapons that the Lord is giving to the church to fight the spiritual battles that God allow the church to pass through. These spiritual weapons will be used to ***“demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.*** People in the world they use arguments and empty word to fight the battle, that is why the Word of God tells us that we should not get involved in arguments, “16 ***Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 23 Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.***” (2Timothy 2:16, 23) Rather we should use the word of God as we are directed with the Holy Spirit to deal with arguments. The word pretension can give the following meanings: affectation (habit, mannerism, way, showing off, exaggeration, artifice), airs (pride, narcissism, conceit, arrogance, egotism), posing, posturing, and self-importance. So all about pride, and to understand this word pretension better we can just put what is opposite to it and that word is humility. So pretension is something related with pride and that is what devil uses to fight and to get stronghold in the church. Dealing with stronghold is dealing with people sins, as well as the aim of the teaching and the bible studies is to turn the people away from sin and toward God and toward His will. Because pretension is pride and that pride will be used by Satan therefore these thought that will reproduced will be not humble thoughts and wants to show off so will pretend to take a high position and when you analyze these thoughts you will found that they are against the knowledge that the word of God give us, that is why Paul said about pretension that they, ***“sets***

itself up against the knowledge of God. The pretension that people have are due to their pride and pride will reproduce thoughts that will ultimately linked with boasting and show off, and will be sure contradicting the word of God. Therefore we need to recognize these odd thoughts that come from pride and devil is using and direct our bible studies to combat that and to use the Word of God to expound these sins and stronghold, and to explain to the people the bad effects on their lives and on the lives of others and how these sins will affect their salvation. We do all what we can to turn them away from sin, and we can be encouraged with the following Scriptures: : **“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are Spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1) “19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20) “23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.” (Jude 1:23)** Those who are in sin we need to snatch them, turn them and restore them back to the Lord by communicating to them gently the word of God and the teaching of the Lord and explain to them the ways of God so that they might repent. We will use supportive Scripture and the stories from the bible to explain the ways of God and His will and we will know that our teaching is effective and fruitful only when we can see the people turn away from sin according to God’s word in **2Timothy 2:19 “19 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”**

Paul also said, **“6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.” (2Corinthians 10:6)** The church should impart disciplinary action against sin and against those who persist in their way of sin and disobedience. The punishment is not only for the sake that those who do wrong should pay the consequences of their sins but that would take a lesson and will not do that with others and harm them, as well as others will take heed and not do the same evil. To inflict punishment it can be done in various aspects and Scripture will teach us how to do that.

A- Dealing with sin using Matthew 18:15-20: The church should deal with those who are trained with righteousness and already knew the truth, but later on they go and fall in sin and do wrong; we can communicate with them the word of God according to **Matthew 18:15-17 KJV “15 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. 16 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. 17 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.”** According to **Matthew 18:15-17** the church is called to judge those inside the church, **“For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?” (1Corinthians 5:12 KJV)** The testimony should be established by two or three people, **“This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (2Corinthians 13:1) “15 One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (Deuteronomy 19:15) “6 On the testimony of two or three witnesses a person is to be put to death, but no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.” (Deuteronomy 17:6)** Those who are unwilling to

repent of their sins and not listen even to the explanation and appeal of the church then we need to consider them as unbeliever. That decision that the church will reach according to the word of God and according to His will, the Lord shall honor and approve and will make it come true. **“18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:18-20)**

B- Confrontation: It is required to confront and face those who are doing wrong. Paul said to Timothy, **“3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer.” (1Timothy 1:3)** That is a fair punishment, to tell those who teach wrong to stop teaching. Because they are bringing harm to others, therefore you need to be of good courage and ask them to stop teaching wrong things. Paul also said to Timothy, **“Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” (1Timothy 5:20 KJV)** The purpose of that, people would take heed of wrong and not to do it and those who who did wrong would be put to shame. Paul said to Titus, **“5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.” (Titus 1:5)** So Paul left Titus in Crete in order to put in order the things that are unfinished and to appoint elders in every town. Paul also instructed him about the people who are called believers but are opposing the work of God, and he taught him why and how to deal with them, **“10 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of Crete’s own prophets has said it: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” 13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith.” (Titus 1:10-13)** Those people whom Paul instructed Titus to rebuke them sharply he described the following things wrong in them:

- 1- **Rebellious:** They do things opposite the truth.
- 2- **Full of meaningless talk and deception:** They are good in talk, they answer back, they twist facts, try to turn your head, they deceive and try to confuse you.
- 3- **They disrupt the whole household by their teaching:** Their wrong teaching will miss direct the people and bring them away from God.
- 4- **They are after dishonest gain:** They interact with people and use the church structure and the ministry to make money and for selfish and personal gain.
- 5- **Always liars:** They are ready to lie whenever they are cornered or caught.
- 6- **Evil:** Wickedness is their life style.
- 7- **Brutes:** They are aggressive and have criminal intention and attitude.
- 8- **Lazy:** They are not willing to spend effort and suffer to work.
- 9- **Gluttons:** They love to eat and they love to be invited and go to places in order to eat.

Paul instructed Titus about those kind of people that they need to be silenced (they should be asked not to teach) and they needed to be rebuked sharply to their faces so they will be sound in faith

Therefore the minister and the elders of the church should take the responsibility and go and face and rebuke certain people when he is called for and when it is needed, as Paul instructed Timothy and Titus, “3 *As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer.*” (1Timothy 1:3) “10 *For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of Crete’s own prophets has said it: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” 13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.*” (Titus 1:10-14) “*Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*” (1Timothy 5:20 KJV)

C- Put away and expel: Those brethren who will be a bad influence on others then they need to be expelled, “11 *But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such person. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”* (1Corinthians 5:11-13) These categories of people, *immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler*, after they had taught the word of God and trained and they are still persistent in their sinful course they need to be put outside the church. The Pastor of the church and the elders should go and face that particular person and ask him not to come to church and not to be part of the fellowship.

D- Hand over to Satan: Those who are beyond the control and are so harmful they need to be hand over to Satan to destroy their sinful nature and to teach them not to blaspheme so that their souls will be saved in the day of the Lord, “18 *Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. 20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*” (1Timothy 1:18-20) *Hymenaeus and Alexander* in this example those people were teaching the people wrong doctrine, that you can read again here, “16 *Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.*” (2Timothy 2:16-18) In the Old Testament those who are wicked and beyond the limit they use either to stone them or burn them, in the New Testament those who are doing wickedness who are beyond the control of the church we need to hand them to Satan to deal with their sinful nature and to teach them not to blaspheme.

Paul spoke to the Corinthians to hand over to Satan a person who slept with his step mother, “1 *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. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 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, 4 In the*

name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 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.” (1Corinthians 5:1-5 KJV)

God opposes the proud but He gives grace to the humble, therefore the church should stand with God and use the authority that God had given to her to make the process of nurturing the new souls more effective and more fruitful. Paul gave to the Corinthians final warning, “2 *I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others,*” (2Corinthians 13:2) So Paul used his authority to extend God’s love to those whom he cared and disciplined. They were as if challenging him if he is going to discipline them and deal with their wickedness, “3 *since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. 4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God’s power we will live with him in our dealing with you.*” (2Corinthians 13:3-4) Paul he went further with them and explained to them his stern and firm stand with them denote the presence of God in their lives, when he told them, “5 *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.*” (2Corinthians 13:5-6) God would always put the church to the test and force the church and compel His church to discipline those who do wrong. And the people would need to see that the church stood the test and did the correct thing. After he told them the warning, Paul prayed for them, and we need to pray after we rebuke and discipline, that the people will not do anything wrong but the correct thing, “7 *Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.*” (2Corinthians 13:7-8)

Paul reminded them that he rather prefer to be weak, and what he mean that he prefer not to use his authority to be harsh in disciplining them, and he would be glad to see them strong, and what he mean here is that they would obey and do what is right so that they can be recovered and ultimately got restored, “9 *We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored.*” And for this reason he is writing his letter to them so that when he will meet them, they had already done the correct thing, and so he will not be needing to be harsh with them in using the authority that God had granted to him for caring and for the building of His church, “10 *This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.*” (2Corinthians 13:10)

My dear and beloved: “*What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.*” (2Timothy 1:13) Those who are in sin we need to communicate to them gently the word of God and the teaching of the Lord and explain to them the ways of God so that they might repent. You need to do your best to save the souls that are sinning and in sin. But there are certain times that the word of God tells us not even to pray for those people whom they knew the Lord but they are going back to sin. Apostle John wrote the following: “16 *If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. 17 All wrongdoing is*

sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.” (1John 5:16-17) The sin that lead to death is the willful sin that is done deliberately. Such person who intentionally sin then this the word of God will be fit for him, “26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31) Such people who are abusing the grace of God and are deliberately sinning and harming and affecting other and are resisting changing, it will be fit for them to be treated as non-believers, and might further needed to be expelled and/or hand over to Satan. Therefore stand firm and do not compromise. If you are willing to obey then no power or force can force you to sin, as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for encouraging word to me. Lord forgive me in the past I give in to some people, but today Lord as I hear your word, I commit my life not to compromise again. Lord sustains me and upholds me with your grace so victoriously I will be passing all the obstacles that you are ordained for me to pass through. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

Jesus christ



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