



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

December 20, 2015

When Brethren Reject the Truth #1

Bryan Garlock

Truth is rejected when men oppose that which is truthful. Biblical truth is rejected when men oppose righteousness and hold down the truth by their ungodliness.

The world has rejected the truth. Paul testified of this in his letter to the Romans when he showed that when one does not glorify or acknowledge God, is unthankful to Him and exchanges truth for a lie, etc. his suppression of truth has led to rejection (Romans 1:18-32).

Unfortunately, even some brethren reject the truth. In this series of articles, we want to examine many ways in which Christians have rejected and thereby hinder God's truth.

Consider these two easy-to-understand passages:

Jesus commanded, "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. 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. 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" (Matt. 18:15-17).

Further Paul wrote, "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you... When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 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...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 Cor. 5:1-11).

Have you ever seen these two commands carried out by a brother or sister in Christ or collectively as a church? Have you ever fulfilled these commands yourself? If so when was the last time? Can you recall? What about your children? Have they seen this command carried out in their lifetime?

If you cannot recall the last time you experienced these instructions being followed by either yourself or another, is it the case that no one has sinned against their brother or sister in five, ten or even fifteen years or have we rejected the truth of these passages?

Northside
church Of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock
Evangelist

Office: 937.393.3634
Cell: 478.256.0325

preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Dec 20 1 Peter 1-5
Dec 21 Heb 1-6
Dec 22 Heb 7-10
Dec 23 Heb 11-13
Dec 24 2 Tim 1-4
Dec 25 2 Pet 1-3, Jude 1
Dec 26 1 Jn 1-5

If we haven't heard of any individual brethren or churches executing these passages and yet claim that this writer's accusations of rejection of truth is too harsh, then we are left with only two possible conclusions: either no brother or sister has sinned in years (and praise God if that is so) or we have excused ourselves from obeying Jesus!

Excuses can range anywhere from "We ought to be patient with them," "We must be loving," "It just hurts too much to do that," "They will be mad at us," "We will lose a friend," "The church may get sued," to "We aren't to judge others," etc. Notice that in each excuse brethren have replaced obedience with emotional pleas.

There is nothing wrong with being patient and loving. We are called to do both. Yet patience and love do not tolerate sin nor allow it to continue until the sinner is so warped that any attempt at disciplining them is meaningless or unhelpful. Once too much time passes the hope of their return to the Lord is sadly absent. Will their blood be on our hands? Ezekiel 3.17-21; Acts 20.26-27; Gal. 6.1

We should not consider God to be foolish in his wisdom for instructing what we may or may not find to be harmful to a person. Remember His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55.8-9)! His purpose for discipline is to save those in error (1 Cor. 5.5; 2 Thess. 3.14-15) and to protect the saved from fellowshiping with sin (1 Cor. 5.6-7, 13; Rom. 16.17-18). Our suppressive thoughts and actions on the matter minimize the seriousness of sin, encourage more sin and cheapen doing what is right. Ultimately we demonstrate that we do not have faith in God's plan for restoring our brothers or sisters who bring shame upon themselves and the congregation of which they are members. We demand church attendance, spiritual growth and faithfulness, yet we push aside any attempt to restore the one who has failed to accomplish any aspect of all of the above. Simply put, do we believe what God has spoken on the matter of disciplining our brethren or would we rather muzzle His word?

We may obey the gospel, pray without ceasing, attend all the worship services, pay our taxes and whatever else we do to remain righteous before the Lord, but when we refuse to observe the instructions given by our Lord or to practice church discipline as instructed in Paul's letters we have hindered the progress of the truth.

Brethren how long will we submit ourselves to rejection of God's word regarding those who need to be disciplined? Do we have sin in the camp? If so it is a hindrance to the work and growth of this church. If sin has been reported it must be dealt with.

The question is: Will we? BG