

RESTORING ONE ANOTHER

Many questions arise as we contemplate our Christian responsibility to exhort, admonish, confront, warn, instruct, and restore one another.

Matt.5:23-24

1 Cor. 5-6

Matt.7:1-5; 16-20

Gal.6:1-5

Matt. 18:15-22

2 Thes.3:6.14

We don't want to "judge" unrighteously, but we must judge with "righteous judgment" as Jesus said (John 7:24).

Therefore what is the difference between judging and "discerning"? (See Gothard's study) Who, what, when, where, how, and why are we to "get involved"? These answers are outlined in 4 words:

MOMENT

MOTIVE

MANNER

METHOD

1. THE MOMENT - When do you "restore"? When do you get involved? According to 1 Cor. 5-6, it was time when someone is clearly and scripturally in sin. Also when the situation is:

- publically known
- potentially destructive
- affecting other people
- damaging their reputation/testimony
- damaging the churches reputation/testimony
- brings a reproach to Christ and His people
- continual and constant
- unrepented of and not being dealt with scripturally

2. THE MOTIVE - Why are you going to the person?

NOT TO throw people out, embarrass them or hurt them

NOT TO be self righteous, nit pick, or play God

NOT TO gossip, or slander, violate | privacy ("CIA" "FBI") or run their life

NOT TO be prideful, or have a "better than you - holier than thou" attitude

NOT TO be legalistic in exercising authority in some unbiblical issue

NOT TO be legalistic in exercising authority in some unbiblical manner

NOT TO expose others and remain indifferent to or avoid you own sin

BUT TO be obedient to Scripture

(Lev.19:17; Matt.18:15; Gal.6:1; James 5:19-20; Phil.4:2-3)

TO make peace and strive for unity (See "Peacemaker" study)

(Eph.4:3; Rom.14:19; 12:18; 1 Thes.5:13)

TO bring people back into a pure, harmonious relationship with the church family (as well as fellowship with the Lord)

3. THE MANNER - How do you go to them?

Spiritually (1 Cor.2:15)
Discerningly (1 Cor.6:5)
 accurately (Deut.13:14)
Prudently (Prov.14:15)
Wisely (Prov.14:16)
Restoratively (Gal.6:1)
Sensitively (Gal.6:1)
 gently
Humbly (Gal.6:1)

Constructively (1 Cor.8:1b)
 build up
Fairly (Prov.18:13,17)

Privately (Matt.18:15)
Lovingly (1 Cor.13:4-8a; 16:14)

Positively (Eph.4:15-16)
Accepting (Rom.15:7)
Unity and Maturity
 (Eph.4:11-16)
Fruit of Spirit (Gal.5:22-23)

Fleshly (Gal.5:16)
Carelessly (Prov.14:16)

Rashly (Prov.14:29)
Foolishly (Prov.14:17,24)
Corruptively (Gal.6:8)
Harshly (Prov.15:1)

Snobbishly (Prov.21:24)
 proud, haughty
Destructively (Prov.12:18)

Vindictively (Rom.12:17-21)
 getting even
Slanderously (Lev.19:16-17; Prov.16:28)
Condemningly (Lk.6:37)
 critically
Negatively
Rejecting
Discord and no growth
 (Prov.6:16-19; Jn.15:2-6)
Fruit of flesh (Gal.5:19-21)

Once you have evaluated your motive and manner "consider yourself lest you also be tempted." What if that were you? How would you want someone to approach you? How would you want to be told? How would you want others to help you?

Remember too, if it is not a potentially destructive problem, then the following apply:

Prov.10:12
Prov.17:9

Prov.19:11
1 Pet.4:8

4. THE METHOD - What Scriptural principles are you following:
See "Biblical Confrontation" study