

“Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church:
Church Discipline: Understanding God Given Authority” (Part 2)

“This may be the most uncomfortable word for many of us: severe. Do we ever really need to be severe? Especially today, in an often excessively sensitive and empathetic society, severity seems only and ever inappropriate (or worse). To some, severity sounds like abuse. ‘If it hurts, it should not have been said,’ could be a proverb of our age. And it is a plague on our age. The wise know just how desperately we need hard words (Proverbs 15:31; Proverbs 27:6; Psalm 141:3-5). The foolish hoard soft words, and flee anything even resembling reproof (Proverbs 12:1; 13:18; 15:32). Mute. Block. Cancel. And the Old Testament warns us, in horror after horror, what happens when everyone does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6). Sometimes, when sin deceives us and entrenches itself in our souls, we need the grace of godly severity.”
(Marshall Segal)

- The *INDIVIDUAL’S* responsibility towards sin:
 - The Church exists to deal with sin. The church will always be full of sinful saints that should be waging war against their sin natures (Colossians 3:5-10; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Romans 8:12-13).
- The *COMMUNITY’S* responsibility towards sin:
 - The body of Christ exists to call out sin in one another’s lives. It is to be done with gentleness and humility, but is a necessary aspect to having a healthy church (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:32; James 5:16).
- The *ELDER’S* responsibility towards sin:
 - The church growth that the Church should be concerned about is spiritual growth, not physical growth. The Church grows spiritually by properly addressing and dealing with sin (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Timothy 6:19-20).
- Attitudes and actions that *PREVENT* spiritual growth *INDIVIDUALLY* and *CORPORATELY*: (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 1 Peter 5:6-11)
 - *Spiritual laziness*: These folks refuse to do their duties in Christ. They have an apathetic attitude towards sin and commitment. They are rebellious towards authority and not supportive of the church. They always have a reason why they can’t and won’t. They expect people to give a 100% to them but will always have a reason not to give 100% to the church (2 Thessalonians 3:6-7 & 13-15).
 - *Spiritual cowardice*: They are motivated by fear. They will take no risks and are always worried about the worst case scenario. They usually feel defeated and overwhelmed with life. They will forsake all eternal reward in exchange for temporal safety and comfort (Matthew 6:25-34).
 - *Spiritual weakness*: They still walk as slaves to their sin. They have little to no faith they can overcome their sin and they practice little to no disciplines in their lives. They have a low moral standard and allow no one to address sin in their lives. They are full of excuses. They want to be perceived as victims to their circumstances and are helpless in Christ to be victorious. They play “hard to get” spiritually but reject you once they are caught (Galatians 5:13-26).
 - *Spiritual selfishness*: They do not offer what they have been given. They struggle to love, offer grace, forgive, be patient, and they shred people with their tongues. They are full of knowledge, but they don’t want to practice what they preach. They struggle with pride and can see sin in others, but see little to no sin in themselves (Matthew 7:1-5 & 12). *(continued →)*

Worship: Glorious Day (Casting Crowns)

Psalm 18 (Citizens)

It Is Well (Various Artists)

Closing Song: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (CityAlight)

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- Closing thoughts: Matthew 10:37-39; Luke 9:23-26
 - We are all naturally rebellious, love our sin, and want no accountability.
 - Spiritual growth is found in giving and receiving correction in love and humility.
 - God-honoring sin addressment is found in relationships.
 - Gently sharing the consequences of sin is loving.
 - We honor God by holding up people in prayer and encouraging them with the Word.
 - Be patient with others as God is patient with us.
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Announcements:

***Fellowship:** EVERY Sunday, immediately following the service, we invite everyone to stay and join us for fellowship in the gym! Bring your dinner with you to church or go get dinner for yourself after the service and come back to join us for a time of fellowship together. We will be socially distancing as we sit together in the gym. Masks are required when you are up and moving around the gym.

***Volunteers Needed:** We have a wonderful opportunity for our church members to get involved in serving our church body in the CHILDREN'S MINISTRY. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney!