

Announcements

Those Seeking Supplications

Bryan Bailey, Sr. * Linda Bailey * Dorothy Brasiel * Jo Byrnes * Matt & Betty Cannon * Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore * Essielene Henderson * Hildreth Johnson * Ethel Jones * Faye Kilpatrick * Randy McElroy * Gary Ogden * Robert Smith's family (Jacksonville)

Group 1

If you're in Group 1 (the list is on the bulletin board in the foyer) then you're encouraged to meet next Sunday night (February 8) at the **home of Jamey & Cindy Hinds** after services.

Group 3: Young People's Group

Is scheduled to meet at the **home of Sammy & Sally Smith**, Saturday, February 21, 4:00 PM is when they are planning to begin. If you're coming, please RSVP with Sammy or Sally.

Secret Pal

Ladies: If you are interested in participating in "Secret Pal," please meet *this afternoon* in the classroom building at 4:30 PM. Hosted by: Prentice Spann and Cindy Hinds

Upcoming Gospel Meeting

Trenton congregation * February 22-27 * Don Hooton of Montgomery, Texas, preaching. 7:30 PM every night.

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in *beautiful* Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 * Chiefland, FL 32644 * (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"

— [Colossians 3:1-2] —

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The Forgotten Command

By Robert F. Turner

It would be trite to say authority and discipline are unpopular in current society; and unnecessary to say this spirit has affected the church. Hundreds of churches have existed for years without exercising corrective discipline in a single case — and not because everyone was faithful. Bring up the subject, and brethren tremble because we see trouble at the door.

Why does church discipline have such a reputation? [1] Brethren have not learned to think objectively — to separate personal feelings from principles — to lose self in the greater cause of Christ. [2] Discipline, has been abused, used vindictively (when we wanted to "tell off" someone), or practice majority rule. Or, [3] it has been neglected for so long there is no "easy" place to start. We await some horrible deed that will shock us all — and

we are building immunity to shock. Perhaps some churches have acted to **save face** respecting highly publicized events; or a few may have made a “flag” of disfellowship — proving “soundness” by something akin to martial law; but for the most part we have neglected corrective discipline.

A comparison of Job 36:10, 2 Timothy 1:7, and 2 Timothy 3:16 — in KJV and ASV, will show discipline and a controlled and instructed mind have much in common.

Discipline begins as we present the call of the gospel to an alien. He is “called out of darkness” (1 Peter 2:9), is taught to crucify the “old man” in obedience to a “form of doctrine” that he might become a “servant of righteousness” (Romans 6:3–7, 16–18). While not corrective or punitive in the sense of disfellowship, this hedges about and brings into line in a most positive way. If we are careful to explain the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:26–33) and the necessity of forsaking “self” unto the Lord, this initial “discipline” will spare the need for much later correction.

1 John 1:5–7 makes the relation of discipline to fellowship very obvious — “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie.” The means of forgiveness, hence of fellowship with God, is provided by Christ; but my forgiveness, my fellowship is contingent upon my walking in the light. This involves a humble walk, ever acknowledging my inadequacy, my need for Him — “If we confess . . . he is faithful and just to forgive” (v. 9).

Church discipline, properly viewed, is a part of the mutual assistance we should expect among Christians in our effort to walk in fellowship with God.



Four Promises of Forgiveness

1. I will no longer dwell on this incident.
2. I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.
3. I will not talk to others about this incident.
4. I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our relationship.

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do” (Colossians 3:13).

—[2 Peter 1:5–11]—

“Yes, and for this very reason adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in virtue knowledge; and in knowledge self-control; and in self-control patience; and in patience godliness; and in godliness brotherly kindness; and in brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never stumble: for in this way shall be richly supplied to you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”