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# Frankly Speaking Notes...

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Ed Smithson, Editor

## CHURCH DISCIPLINE AGAIN

Last Sunday I sat in the back of the auditorium at church services, where I usually sit, and listened as one of the elders of that church read a statement stating that a certain sister was delinquent in her conduct toward her Lord and they were going to begin procedures that would lead to “withdrawal of fellowship” within a specified time.

This isn't the first time the elders here have done this. I have heard it before. But I have not heard of it often and seldom from other churches. Certainly it isn't because they do not have any unruly members.

Back in 1965 I wrote a small book on the subject. I called it, “The Forgotten Commandment.” It has been out of print a couple of times over the years but is still available today. In the book I trace the entire subject of discipline through the Bible.

It has always been interesting as to WHY(?) our brethren do not practice church discipline. We have always been pretty strong on “divine commands” but seem to have largely overlooked this one.

I don't know how anything could be plainer. **“It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even among the Gentiles, that one of you hath his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and did not rather mourn, that he that had done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, being absent in body but present in spirit, have already as though I were present judged him that hath so wrought this thing, in the name of our Lord Jesus, ye being gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.** Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, even as ye are unleavened. For our

passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ: wherefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote unto you in my epistle to have no company with fornicators; not at all meaning with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous and extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world: but as it is, I wrote unto you not to keep company, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no, not to eat. For what have I to do with judging them that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Put away the wicked man from among yourselves.” (1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ASV-Emphasis mine)

“**Now we command you**, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which they received of us.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6 ASV- Emphasis mine)

Now brethren, read these passages and tell me how we ignore them.

Ed Smithson

[ed@oldpathspulpit.org](mailto:ed@oldpathspulpit.org)

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