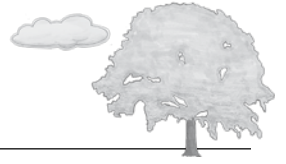




Tough Love

2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11



I. Tough love _____ those who need correction.

Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough ... vv. 5-6

CORRECTIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Matthew 18:15-20

ONE TO ONE ➔ TWO TO ONE ➔ CHURCH INVOLVEMENT ➔ TREATED AS AN UNBELIEVER

II. Tough love _____ the repentant sinner and restores them to the fellowship.

... so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. vv. 7-8

CHURCH DISCIPLINE ➔ REPENTANCE ➔ FORGIVENESS ➔ RESTORATION

forgiveness = relinquishing the right to be compensated for someone's wrong

FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- Ignoring what a person has done
- An emotionally based decision
- A promise to trust those who've wronged you
- A one-time statement
- Simple

FORGIVENESS IS

- Acknowledging the wrong that occurred
- A volitional, obedience-based decision
- A promise to trust God with the results
- A continual action of the heart
- Spiritual



III. Tough love is tough to give and must always keep the _____ in mind.

For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. vv. 9-11

A We forgive others because we have been forgiven and restored ourselves. (Eph 4:32)

B. If we do not forgive and restore one another, we are entertaining the schemes of Satan.



SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

1. How have you seen church discipline played out before, for good or bad? What was your general perspective on church discipline before hearing the sermon, and how did the sermon change your thinking regarding that subject?

2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. In what sense do we put people on probation even after saying we forgive them, watching to see if they live up to our forgiveness? What does God's Word say about having that attitude?

3. Under CORRECTIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE in sermon point I, why do most problems between believers not progress beyond 'one on one' or 'two on one'? Why do most who talk to leadership or to others not approach the other person involved in the problem first?

4. Which items in the lists of WHAT FORGIVENESS ISN'T and WHAT FORGIVENESS IS under point II were new thoughts for you? How does this fresh perspective help as you seek to forgive another who has wronged you?

5. What "bigger picture" did God bring to mind for a situation where you need to extend forgiveness (whether in the church or any other relationship)?

6. Is there someone in the church you need to forgive? Someone's forgiveness you need to ask for? How can you start that process even today?

Don't let this opportunity pass—talk to the Lord about working toward forgiveness with someone, asking for His supernatural enabling as you step out in obedience.

ON FORGIVENESS

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

C. S. Lewis

"I believe that as often as I transgress, God is more ready to forgive me than I am ready to offend."

Charles Spurgeon

"Forgiveness is not that stripe which says, 'I will forgive, but not forget.' It is not to bury the hatchet with the handle sticking out of the ground, so you can grasp it the minute you want it."

D. L. Moody

"Love may forgive all infirmities and love still in spite of them: but Love cannot cease to will their removal."

C. S. Lewis

"As long as you live on earth, you won't see the end of injustices. Yet God desires for you to let go of injustices and hold on to His grace. Only He can give you the power to forgive those who have hurt you the deepest."

Paul Chappell

"The trouble is, people do not know that Christ is a Deliverer. They forget that the Son of God came to keep them from sin as well as to forgive it."

D. L. Moody

"Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."

Corrie Ten Boom

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Forgiveness is always free. But that doesn't mean that confession is always easy. Sometimes it is hard. Incredibly hard. It is painful to admit our sins and entrust ourselves to God's care."

Erwin Lutzer

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of "The Source" at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

ELO 40 DAYS OF PRAYER BEGINS TODAY.

CCBC missionaries recently finished an Elo translation of the New Testament and we are praying for the gospel to break through to this unreached people group living in Asia! Join us by downloading a prayer guide at www.ccbcfamily.org/events. Limited copies are also available at the Serve Kiosk in the Great Room and the Welcome Desk in the Atrium.

WOMEN'S SUMMER SALAD LUNCHEON IS THIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 5.

Ladies, don't forget to invite a friend and join us for lunch in the Oak Room at 11 a.m. this Wednesday. You'll meet Madel Beukes and hear her stories of witnessing God's goodness while serving in South Africa. Bring a salad to share and we'll see you there!

YOUNG ADULTS, SUMMER SPORTS BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 5.

Don't miss the start of our tournament that includes sand volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, soccer and more at the TCU intramural fields. And if you don't want to play, come be a spectator! Check out www.ccbcfamily.org/sports for details.

NEW "OVERCOMING THE NEED TO PLEASE" CLASS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 9.

Whether it's over-committing, folding to others' expectations or focusing too much on what others think, we all struggle with the "fear of man." Replace it with something infinitely more life-giving in this three-week class. Choose between two times, 9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

VOLUNTEER FOR MUSICAMP! We're looking for volunteers age 16 and older to serve breakfast and lunch to volunteers and kids July 10-14. No musical talent is required, just a helping hand! Email Victoria at VictoriaP@christchapelbc.org to sign up.

READY TO BE BAPTIZED? SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT ADULT BAPTISM CLASS. If you are in the seventh grade or older and are interested in being baptized on Sunday, July 30, sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/baptism today. The class will be Sunday, July 23 at 6:15 p.m. in the Soul Care Conference Room.

COUPLES, PLAN NOW TO GET AWAY THIS FALL.

Join Doug and Patty Cecil Friday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 10 at Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose to learn how Bible study, prayer and fellowship have a way of putting things back into perspective. You'll have time to rest, regroup before the busy fall and go on a date. The cost is \$295 per couple. Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

BECOME A SOUL CARE MENTOR. If you'd like to guide individuals in a one-on-one setting and show them how to walk in the freedom Jesus offers, email Libby at LibbyM@christchapelbc.org.