

College Heights Baptist Church

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Dear Church Member:

The Lord has been blessing our church with many coming to Christ, following up with baptism and church membership. Any time you have a move of God you will also have a resistance from the other side. Since we are in the last days, I am prepared for the battles and victories ahead because of our years in ministry, but many are not. It is my responsibility as your pastor to do everything that I can to guard the sheep of our fold. It is for that reason that I am writing to each and every one of you.

Anytime you have a group of people who come together as much as we all do and who have become so close that we consider them all family, You will have people, because they feel so close, to become openly spoken about each other. Even though, we should listen to those who criticize without allowing it to blow us out of the water. Normally what happens is the fact that most people re-act instead of act, which can have devastating results to any group that is close as a family. It is for that reason that I write to you now. I am asking everyone to do there part as a Christian brother and sister. If for any reason you feel offended, I urge you to practice the Biblical principles in "The removal of offense". Go to that person in love in order to restore that relationship that you have with that person.

(Gal 6:1 KJV) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore** such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

(Mat 18:15 KJV) Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Verses 15-20 is saying, if a professed Christian is wronged by another, he ought not to complain of it to others, as is often done merely upon report, but to go to the offender privately, state the matter kindly, and show him his conduct. This would generally have all the desired effect with a true Christian, and the parties would be reconciled. The principles of these rules may be practiced everywhere, and under all circumstances, though they are too much neglected by all. But how few try the method which Christ has expressly enjoined to all his disciples! In all our proceedings we should seek direction in prayer and operate out of love one toward another. Wherever and whenever we meet in the name of Christ, we should consider Christ as present in the midst of us.

(Luke 17:3 KJV) Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. **(Luke 17:4 KJV)** And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

There are many other Biblical principles laid out that a Christian is required to follow in order to better further the Kingdom of Christ, but as you can see, staying together is of the most important principle of all. **Heb 11:25 ... not forsake the assembly of ourselves together...**

(Mat 6:14 KJV) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

(Col 2:13 KJV) And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (made to come alive) together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; (Our example from Christ is to forgive **ALL** trespasses)

May God reveal the grace of God in each and everyone to love each other **no matter what**, to remain as one family, **no matter what**, to fight for the cause of Christ as one, **no matter what**. Look forward to winning the battles and sharing in the victories for Christ in the days ahead.

Love you in the Lord

Dr. Rick