

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

September 12, 2021

When a Brother Sins ...

By Derek Long

The Lord gives us instructions on what to do when a brother or sister in Christ ends up sinning. God's word teaches Christians are to put sin to death (Romans 6:1-4; Galatians 5:24; Colossians 3:5) as a result sinning should not be a normal part of a Christian's life. The Bible does teach it is possible for a Christian to go back into sin (2 Peter 2:20-22; 1 John 2:1-2). The Bible does not approve of or downplay the seriousness of a Christian's sins. The Bible gives other Christians instructions on things they are expected to do when another Christian falls into sin.

When a brother sins, other Christians should be sorrowful (1 Corinthians 5:2). Love for others and love for God requires us not to rejoice in iniquity (1 Corinthians 13:6). Sometimes Christians fail to sorrow as they should over sin in the lives of other Christians. It is easy for some Christians to adopt the attitude that a brother or sister's sin is their problem and not my problem. It is true the brother or sister in Christ has the primary responsibility to do something about sin in their own life. However, God's word teaches the faithful have a responsibility to help the person who becomes entangled in sin.

When a brother sins, other Christians should seek to restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1-2). God requires spiritual people to be involved in the work of restoring those who become overtaken in a trespass. Jesus gives us some practical steps we can take in seeking to correct a brother in sin especially if the sin is private in nature. In Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus taught one should first go to the brother one-on-one. If the brother is not convinced to abandon his sin when corrected one-on-one, then two or three should go and talk to the brother. If the brother refuses to hear the two or three, then the whole church needs to be told about the sin and take steps to restore the erring brother. If the brother refuses to hear the whole church, then Christians are required to treat him like a heathen or tax collector. Treating someone like a heathen or tax collector is to not socialize and keep company with them (1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15). Some people fail to follow Jesus' pattern for dealing with a sinful brother because they are convinced God's plan will not work. Instead of trusting in our own thinking though, we need to trust and rely upon God and His instruction (Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 3:5-6). Take notice of the goal in all these steps is to gain the brother. Our attitude should be one which is seeking to bring the brother out of sin and not just to tell the brother he is wrong.

When a brother sins, other Christians need to be willing to pray for their brother (James 5:16). Sometimes we may want to know what we can do for a brother who is struggling with sin and temptation. One thing we can do for a brother who is struggling with sin is to pray for them to have strength, etc. to resist temptation.

When a brother sins, other Christians must be prepared to rebuke and forgive (Luke 17:3-4). A person struggling with a particular sin may continue to fall back into sin at times. What are we to do when a person falls back into sin, we need to rebuke them once again. We cannot become discouraged and give up because it might appear to us they are never going to learn, their case is hopeless, etc. When a brother in Christ sins and yet is penitent, we are commanded to forgive the brother. Jesus teaches our forgiveness should be such that we are willing to forgive our brother seven times in a day (Luke 17:4). It is easy for us to almost run out of forgiveness for a person who seems to constantly fall back into sin. When a person repents, no matter how many times they have sinned, we must be ready, willing and eager to forgive them. Paul taught the Corinthians to withdraw themselves from the man who had his father's wife (1 Corinthians 5). When the man repents, Paul reminds the Corinthians they now have a responsibility to forgive the penitent brother. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 says, "This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him" (NKJV). A failure to reaffirm our love for the brother who repents can lead the person to be swallowed up with too much sorrow. We can end up discouraging the brother if we are not careful. Repentance needs to be the focus of the brother who has been in sin. Forgiveness may need to be the focus of those who have been sinned against, etc.