

“Withdraw Yourselves”

2 Thessalonians 3:6

What it means to “withdraw”

“withdraw” Defined

“withdraw” – *stello* (Greek) ...

- “properly, to set fast (‘stall’), i.e. (figuratively) to repress (reflexively, abstain from associating with): – avoid, withdraw self” – Strong
- “‘to bring together, gather up’ (used of furling sails), hence, in the Middle Voice, signifies ‘to shrink from a person or thing’ 2 Thess. 3:6, ‘withdraw;’ elsewhere, 2 Cor. 8:20, ‘avoiding’” – Vine
- “to remove oneself withdraw oneself to depart ... to abstain from familiar contact with one, 2 Thessalonians 3:6” – Thayer

What “withdrawing” is NOT

“withdraw” Defined

It is NOT “throwing someone out” of the church

- 3 John 9-10

It is NOT taking vengeance on the erring brother

- Roman 12:19

It is NOT refusing to talk to or make contact with the erring

- We are to “admonish him as a brother” – 2 Thessalonians 3:15

- Must try to “restore” the erring – Galatian 6:1; Matthew 18:15

It is NOT a pleasant duty to have to discipline the erring

- o ▪ Psalms 133:1; Ephesians 4:1-3

What it means to “withdraw”

“withdraw” Defined

It is both church and individual action

- Elders are to oversee and guard the flock among them
 - 1 Peter 5:1-6; Acts 20:28-32
- Individual members have spiritual duty to obey the rule over them, restore the erring, endeavor to maintain spiritual unity
 - Hebrews 13:17, also verses 7, 24 ; James 5:19-20; Ephesians 4:1-3

To have no association or company with

- “not to keep company with ... no not to eat”

- 1 Corinthians 5:9-11

- o ▪ “... have no company with him ...” – 2 Thessalonians 3:14

What is the reason and purpose?

“withdraw”

Withdrawing is an action commanded by God

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6

To respect and submit to the authority of Christ

- He is the head of the church – Colossians 1:18
- He has ALL authority – Matthew 28:18
- His Headship and Authority are disrespected if we don't withdraw from the disorderly – Luke 6:46

What is the reason and purpose?

“withdraw”

To keep the church pure

- The church is composed of individuals whose souls have been **purified** by obeying the truth
 - 1 Peter 1:22; Romans 6:17-18
- Our garments have been **washed** in the blood of the Lamb
 - Revelation 7:14
- It is God's desire that we **maintain this purity**
 - 1 Timothy 5:22; 4:12; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; Ephesians 5:11

“withdraw”

What is the reason and purpose?

“That the spirit (soul) may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” – 1 Corinthians 5:5

To cause the erring to be ashamed and lead them to **confession and repentance** – 2 Thessalonians 3:14

- David was led to repentance by Nathan
 - 2 Samuel 12:1-11

To prevent the leavening effect of sin and to cause the faithful to watch and remember

- 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Acts 20:31; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11

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“withdraw”

The manner of withdrawal – 1 Corinthians 5:4-8

It is done by the authority of Christ

- “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” – verse 4

It is to be done by the local congregation

- “when ye are gathered together” – verse 4

It is to be done in a spirit of love for the erring one

- “neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” – verse 8

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The manner of withdrawal

It must be done without partiality or discrimination

- 1 Timothy 5:21; James 3:17

It must be applied discreetly and with Godly wisdom

- This is implied by the nature of the qualification of elders
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-7

It must be done prayerfully that the erring will bring forth fruit worthy of repentance

- 1 John 5:16; Acts 26:20; Hebrews 12:11-15

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The subjects of withdrawal

Who should be disciplined?

- Those who need it!

“... every brother who walks disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us”

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14

One who “walks disorderly” is one whose conduct is sinful

- “Traditions” are the Divine apostolic teachings and writings
- “Ordinances” – 1 Corinthians 11:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15
- Paul wrote “commandments of the Lord” – 1 Corinthians 14:37

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The subjects of withdrawal

From every **erring** brother who does not repent ...

- Those who will not repent – Matthew 18:15
- Those who walk disorderly – 2 Thessalonians 3:6
- The sexually immoral – 1 Corinthians 5:11
- The neglectful who sin willfully – Hebrews 10:25-26
- Those again entangled in sin – 2 Peter 2:20

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The subjects of withdrawal

From every **erring** brother who does not repent ...

- Those who depart from God – Hebrews 3:12
- Those who are factious – Titus 3:10
- Those who cause divisions and offences – Romans 16:17
- Those who forsake Christ’s cause – 2 Timothy 4:10
- Those who sin unto death – 1 John 5:16

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Our duty toward the withdrawn

Cannot not be recognized as a faithful brother

- Must not be used in the worship services
 - Must “*mark them ... and avoid them*” – Romans 16:17

Must restrict private association

- “*As the Gentile and the publican*” – Matthew 18:17
- “*Have no company with*” – 1 Corinthians 5:11
- “*That he might be ashamed*” – 2 Thessalonians 3:14
 - Note: One who has company with the scripturally disciplined, undermines and lessens the effort of the church in its duty of discipline and will become the subject of discipline

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“withdraw”

Our duty toward the withdrawn

We must not forget those who have been disciplined

- Admonish them as brethren – 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:15
- Pray for them – 1 John 5:16
- Strive to “*convert*” them – James 5:19-20
- Strive to “*restore*” as opportunity permits – Galatians 6:1

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Restore in meekness →

Galatians 6:1

“Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

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REVIEW

- What it means to withdraw.
- The reason and purpose of withdrawal.
- The manner of withdrawal.
- The subjects of withdrawal.
- Our duty toward the withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

- We must obey God’s command concerning discipline.
- We respect the authority of Christ when we do so.
- The restored will be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

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Rejoice when the erring repent!

“I say unto you, that even so there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, (more) than over ninety and nine righteous persons, who need no repentance”

Luke 15:7

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