How To Treat The Withdrawn

Intro: When someone sins and refuses to repent, the church has the obligation to withdraw fellowship from them. One of the purposes in this withdrawal is to save the soul of the person in sin. When withdrawal of fellowship has taken place, then how are we to treat that person.

I. **The Essence of Christianity.**
   A. **The Creation of Man.**
      1. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden where they lived in perfect harmony and fellowship with God.
      2. Man sinned.
      3. God’s nature caused Him to separate them from Him.
         a. Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”
         b. Thus God cast Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.
   B. **Old Testament Israel.**
      1. God chose Israel to be His people.
         a. They were to be holy
            (1) Lev. 19:2 “Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.”
            (2) Lev. 20:7 “Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.”
         b. To make them holy God gave them His law, sacrifices, and offerings; Exo. 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”
         c. God separated them from other nations.
            (1) Lev. 20:24, 26 “But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people... 26 And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.”
            (2) He gave them the land of Canaan and drove out the nations to keep them separate and thus holy.
         d. However, Israel failed to drive them out and were influenced by them.
            (1) God then sent Israel into captivity.
            (2) Jos. 23:15-16 “Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you. 16 When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.”
   C. **Christianity today: we are to be separate.**
      1. We live in the world but we are not of the world.
         a. John 15:19 “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”
b. John 17:15-16 “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

2. Our relation to the world.
   a. Rom. 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
   b. Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
   c. 1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

3. Thus we separate ourselves from the world; 2 Cor. 6:14-17 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”

II. EXAMINATION OF SCRIPTURE.

A. 1 Cor. 5:
   1. Seven phrases telling us how to treat the person.
   2. “Might be taken away from among you” (verse 2).
   3. “To deliver such an one unto Satan” (verse 5).
   4. “Purge out” (verse 7).
   5. “Not to company with” (verse 9).
   6. “Not to keep company” (verse 11).
   7. “With such an one no not to eat” (verse 11).
   8. “Put away from among yourselves” (verse 13).

B. Mat. 18:17 “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”
   1. A heathen is actually a Gentile.
   2. A publican is a tax-collector.

C. Rom. 16:17 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”
   1. Mark is to look at, to fix one’s eyes upon or direct one’s attention to.
   2. Then avoid.

D. Eph. 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
   1. Have no fellowship.
   2. Reprove is to convict generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted and also exposing the sin and person.

E. 2 The. 3:6, 14 “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 he received of us....14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”
   1. We are to withdraw ourselves from him, which is to withdraw oneself or to abstain from familiar intercourse with.
   2. We are to note him which is to mark, or distinguish by marking.
   3. We are to have no company with him.
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F. 1 Tim. 6:5 “Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”

1. Christians must withdraw from those who would teach false doctrine.
2. Withdraw here is to stand off from, to depart from.

G. 2 Tim. 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

H. Tit. 3:10-11 “A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; 11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”

1. A heretick is one who is factious or divisive.
2. Reject is to shun, avoid, refuse, or drive out.

I. 2 John 9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

1. We are not to receive (to associate one’s self as a companion) into our homes.
2. We must not bid him God speed which is to give a greeting.
3. We must not do anything that would show that we support or aid this one.

J. Rev. 18:4 “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

K. 2 The. 3:15 “Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

1. We must not treat the withdrawn as an enemy (one who is hated, odious, thus hostile to him).
2. We are to admonish (warn, exhort).
3. Our desire is to save that person, therefore when we come into contact with them, we try to urge them to repent.

III. PROBLEM AREAS.

A. Family.

1. When a family member has been withdrawn from, the family obligations given by God continue.
2. Those family obligation must be fulfilled.
3. However, we must still make it clear to the withdrawn that we do not approve of what he has done and that there is no spiritual fellowship with him.

B. Congregational.

1. When a congregation withdraws from someone, what should sister congregations response be.
   a. If the withdrawal is Scriptural—they should likewise withdraw themselves from the individual (on congregation).
   b. If the persons actions have been such to warrant withdrawal from one congregation, it is worthy of withdrawal from all congregations.

2. If we would recognize other’s withdrawal, it would solve a lot of problems and help those withdrawn from to attain heaven.
3. A person could not simply run to another congregation and be accepted as if they are right with God thus giving them a false sense of security.

Conclusion: Let us as a people practice the discipline God expects and when corrective actions are taken, let us do as God commands treating them as God instructs to save their souls.