



MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WITHDRAWAL

Part 2

Misconception 3

Withdrawal is universal in scope

- **Some believe local withdrawal must be honored by all brethren and local churches of Christ**
- **Withdrawal is local in application – 1 Cor. 5**
 - Sinner should have been “removed from **your** midst” - 5:2
 - Paul judged this brother “as though present” at Corinth – 5:3
 - The **Corinthians** were to deliver him to Satan and “not to associate” with him – 5:4-5, 11
- **Fellowship in a local church is a local matter**
 - Each church decides who it fellowships based on Scripture, and can make mistakes – Acts 9:26; 3 Jn. 9-11; Rev. 2:14-15
 - Each church must examine the attitudes, beliefs, and actions of those seeking to join it
 - The actions of one church holds no ultimate sway over another.

Misconception 4

Withdrawal has a specific procedure to follow

- Though I do not disagree completely with the concept, I often disagree with the application.
 - People feel no obligation because “it was not done correctly”
 - People misapply Jesus’ instructions that concern private sins – Matt. 18:15-17
- **1 Corinthians 5** and **2 Thessalonians 3** address local church action concerning public sin
 - Corinth was to **meet and determine to withdraw association** – 1 Cor. 5:4-5
 - Thessalonica was to **note** the impenitent sinner and **not associate with him** – 2 Thess. 3:11-12, 14-15
 - The only way a church can do this wrong is if **they did not love enough to seek the sinner’s repentance** and/or **refused to meet and withdraw** if he did not repent.

Misconcept 5
**Withdrawal is
a rare, last
resort**

- **Many think withdrawal is negative action and should be rarely employed...and only when it no longer matters**
 - If the erring Christian is attending, withdrawal will drive them away.
 - They believe keeping close association with the sinner is what will bring about their repentance.
- **This approach is the exact opposite of what God's word says**
 - Churches were to withdraw from those who were still attending!
 - To drag out the process or ignore it completely risks compromising the purity of the congregation – 1 Cor. 5:6-7
- **Withdrawal is designed to save the sinner's soul – 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-10**