

Lesson Nineteen

What Does the Bible Teach Concerning Confession and the Ministry?

1. What is the ministry?

Mark 16:15 Spreading the Word: The ministry is proclamation, going, outreach

Matthew 28:18-20 Baptizing and teaching. It is action oriented, incarnational, doctrinal, and trusting in Him. The promise of the assurance of His presence may be connected with the church being about what the church has been commissioned to be about, namely going. Notice the Seven Churches of Revelation. The ones that Jesus commended and did not condemn were those that went in His name.

John 20:22,23 Office of the Keys, forgive and retain. Matthew 16:19

2. To whom has Christ given this power?

Matthew 18:17-20 to the local congregation

3. Which sins should be forgiven and which should not be forgiven?

There are law/gospel applications needed.

1 John 1:8-10 Those of which we confess and are penitent.

4. How should Christian congregations administer publicly the power of the ministry?

Acts 20:28

1 Corinthians 14:40 Through the pastoral office or under the authority of the Pastoral office and the elders with out fear but in love. Decently and in order, must have the higher standard.

5. Does this mean that the work of the ministry belongs only to pastors?

Ephesians 4:11,12 No, his essential task is to equip and build up the saints for ministry.

6. What does the Bible teach concerning discipline in the church?

1 Corinthians 4:17-21 discipline is always done in love, in gentleness, in authority

Matthew 18:15-17 deal with discipline on a one on one, face to face level. Resist sending emails, texts, and letter. Don't send registered letters.

1 Corinthians 5:13 Action is called for

Matthew 18:18 It is a sobering responsibility. If you enjoy it, you shouldn't do it.

7. If a situation in a church ends in excommunication, what should the motives be for such action?

A) Is it not to ruin or to destroy

B) It is for building up the church

8. What do the Scriptures teach about confession?

Psalm 32:5 we must confess our sins.

Psalm 19:12 again, we are to confess all our sins.

Matthew 5:23,24 (James 5:16) Not simply to God but to one another.

Do we have to confess our sins? yes

Do we have to confess our sins to a pastor? no

What do we need to express when we hear someone confess sin? The Gospel “You are forgiven.” When sin is confess, don’t brush it off or excuse it with “everyone does it” or “it’s not so bad.” Not to create a law but say the words, “You are forgiven” in the face of confession.

Review

True/False

1) F Christ has given the power of ministry only to pastors.

2) T Every church needs a pastor.

3) T Christ has given to His church the power to forgive sins.

4) T Christ has given to His church the power to refuse forgiveness.

5) F There are some churches that do not need discipline.

6) F The process of excommunication was invented by the church.

What are three steps toward loving discipline in the church?

a) One on One

b) with other witnesses

c) to the Church (the elders not the voters’)