Withdrawal

**Introduction**

II Thess 3:6 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.

I Tim 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

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Withdrawal - **Passages**

Matt. 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matt. 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Matt. 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 a heathen man and a publican.

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.

1Cor. 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Cor. 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Cor. 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1Cor. 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

1Cor. 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Eph. 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

**Withdrawal**

**Passages**

2Ths. 3:6 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.

2Ths. 3:14 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.

2Ths. 3:15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

1Tim. 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1Tim. 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

1Tim. 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

1Tim. 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

2John 9 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.

2John 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

2John 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Withdrawal

**Definitions**

Fellowship = "joint participation," "share" (Thayer); spiritual sharing; does not refer to social company, common meals, etc.

Withdraw - "to remove one's self, withdraw one's self, to depart, ... to abstain from familiar intercourse with one" (Thayer); "to draw back" (Green's Interlinear); I believe that this primarily refers to the social aspect (Galatians 2:12) - though I don't think it would be inappropriate to talk about "withdrawing fellowship"

Withdrawal - Comparison Of The Passages

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Passage | Fellowship | Social |
| Mt 18:17 |  | let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican1 |
| Rom 16:17 | mark | avoid |
| I Cor 5:5,9, 11 | deliver such an one unto Satan2 | not to company, no not to eat |
| Eph 5:11 | have no fellowship |  |
| II Thess 3:14, 6 | note that man | withdraw yourselves, have no company with him |
| I Tim 1:20 | delivered unto Satan |  |
| I Tim 6:5 |  | withdraw thyself |
| II Jn v.10 | receive him not into your house3, neither bid him God speed |  |

1 treat them as the religious leaders of the day treated the Gentiles; they didn't keep social company with them, and they didn't eat with them; remember that they were surprised that Jesus ate with the publicans and sinners

2 deliver unto Satan means to "mark" as unfaithful; recognize (and make known to him) that the offender is living under the realm of Satan instead of the realm of God

3 the opposite of III Jn vs.5-8; bringing into the home to help the preacher on his preaching journey; this does not forbid studying with a false teacher, that would contridict too many other passages that show we are to try to convert people out of their error

**Withdrawal**

**The Purposes For Withdrawal**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Passage | Repentance | Salvation |
| Mt 18:15 | hear thee | gained thy brother |
| I Cor 5:5 | destruction of the flesh\* | that the spirit may be saved |
| II Thess 3:14 | that he may be ashamed |  |
| I Tim 1:20 | that they may learn not to blaspheme |  |

\* Rom 8:13 "mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body"

Also to protect the church - I Cor 5:6-7:

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us

Withdrawal

**What Must We Do As Individuals?**

1. have no fellowship with

Eph 5:11 have no fellowship with - don't share spiritually with

II Jn v.10 receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed

examples:

• calling on for prayer at home Bible study

• having false teacher stay at your house to help him on his preaching trip

• etc.

2. cease social interaction with

Mt 18:17 let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican

Rom 16:17 avoid

I Cor 5:9, 11 not to company with, no not to eat

II Thess 3:6, 14 withdraw yourselves, have no company with

I Tim 6:5 withdraw thyself

examples:

• go to, or watch a football game with

• common meal

• etc.

#1 applies to any person who is not a faithful Christian, even non-Christians (don't jointly participate spiritually with anyone who is not a faithful Christian)

#2 is only required if the person has at one time become a Christian - I Cor 5:9-13

Rules:

• We should not have fellowship (spiritual sharing) with anyone who is not a faithful Christian (including non-Christians).

• If we are not having fellowship with a person, and if that person has ever become a Christian, then we should not have social interaction with them either.

**Withdrawal**

**What Must We Do As A Congregation?**

1. have no fellowship with (as a congregation)

examples:

• calling on for prayer at worship

• monetary support of unfaithful preacher

• etc.

2. cease social interaction with?

church should never do this as a church anyway

Mt 18:15-17 (see Acts 10:28, 11:3), I Cor 5:4-5 public withdrawal

a. congregational withdrawal

b. at least instruct individual responsibility

**Withdrawal**

**What About Someone Who Has Quit Attending?**

disorderly (II Thess 3:6,7) - "disorderly, out of the ranks," "of soldiers marching out of order or quitting the ranks" (Thayer)

Sins of the One Who Has Quit Attending:

• Quit the Lord (they don't usually just quit attending, but keep doing everything else)

• Lord's Supper

• Contribution

• Prayer

• Bible Study

• Trying to reach others with the gospel

• etc.

If we can only withdraw from those who are specifically mentioned, then we can't withdraw from:

• murderer

• etc.

**Withdrawal**

**Why Is This Practice Being Neglected?**

• Some don't believe in doing anything "Negative" - Gal 2:11-13

• Some don't think it will work - Is 55:8-9

• Some are afraid it will cause others to leave. Acts 5:11 - in the long run, you'll end up with more faithful Christians if you practice discipline, just like you'll have more good kids if you practice discipline on them

* Some don't want to have to quit having social company and eating with their relatives and close friends.
* Some say, what good will it do if they haven't been spending time with us (outside the assembly) anyway?; that is why it is so important that the relatives and close relatives (in addition to the others) participate in the withdrawal (drawing back of social contact); otherwise some of the effect will be lost

**Withdrawal**

**What About After The Withdrawal?**

Gal 6:1 - Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

James 5:19-20 - Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

**Withdrawal**

**Conclusion**

Even though it is hard, we must do it; after all, if we only do what is easy, then we aren't really doing what we do because God said to, but only because we wanted to anyway.

Eccl 8:11:

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.