

**"True Faith and Love for Fellow Believers"****James 5:19-20**

**Introduction:** I cannot speak for you but I can speak for me about the study of James. This entire study that started back on July 6, 2014 that is almost 2 years ago, has been a real blessing to me and I trust you can say the same. Today we are going to finish this study as we look at the last 2 verses of chapter 5. In 2 weeks we will begin a study of the book of Ruth and I am sure that study will be a great blessing also.

Now let me get your mind directed to where we are going today.

We live in a day when the church has really been influenced by our society. Maybe it is because today you can listen to the news 24 hours a day which was not the case 40 years ago. Back then you watched the news at 6 pm and 11 pm. Now the media has air time 24 hours a day on multiple channels. So if you desire you can tune into one of the many channels and there you can tap into the HEART BEAT of the Nation anytime you desire.

Now if you are a person who taps into the news on a regular basis then you know that our society has evolved into a society where people believe that everyone should live however they desire and to question how they are living makes you a person who is BIGOTED or INTOLERANT. So with this being the heartbeat of our Nation we are now made to feel as though it is wrong to say anything about the sinful practices of others. It has even come to the place where those who speak out against sin are considered to be those who promote HATE SPEECH.

Then you have people within the circle of the church who will often misquote Scripture in order to allow people to live in their sinful lifestyles. Let me show you some of the passages they use.

**John 8:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> *And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.*

<sup>3</sup> *And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,*

<sup>4</sup> *They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.*

<sup>5</sup> *Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?*

<sup>6</sup> *This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.*

<sup>7</sup> *So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

Many quote the end of verse 7 and they use this to say that we should just allow people to live however they desire. They have no idea of the context here. Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders who were determined to catch Him in a contradiction of Words.

These men caught this woman in the act of adultery but they never brought the man she was with. It may have been one of their own. The point was they were trying to trap Him and they themselves were also guilty of practicing sin.

There is also another passage that many people misquote.

#### **Matthew 7:1-2**

*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*

<sup>2</sup> *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*

Many use this to say we should never say anything about the lifestyle of others. They say it makes us guilty of JUDGING.

They do not understand that Jesus is speaking against the Religious Leaders here. He is telling them to stop being CRITICAL! They criticized everyone that was not of their circle. In other words they had elevated themselves above all those who were not living as they lived. This was the very attitude Jesus was addressing here.

So to use any of these verses to say that we should never confront someone about their sinful lifestyle is taking these verses completely out of context.

To be more specific I need to let you know to NOT confront someone whom we have contact with is to be DISOBEDIENT to the Scriptures. Let me show you what I mean.

#### **Ezekiel 3:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> *When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

*<sup>19</sup> Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

### **Leviticus 19:17**

*<sup>17</sup> Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.*

Here we see that if we allow our brother or sister to continue in their sin and not warn them then that is the same as hating them. When we truly love someone we will not allow them to stay in their sin but we will do all we can to help them to see the danger in the situation they are in.

So the Bible is clear that when someone within our circle of life or when someone within the church gets involved in sin we are to show love to them by helping them to see the danger they are in.

Now let me go back to the HEARTBEAT of our society. Our society and even someone who attend the church are all about letting people live any lifestyle they choose. So often I see people who are in a position to show love by reaching out and warning the other person about their sin but instead they PAMPER them. Let me show you something that may be a shock.

### **2 John 1:10-11**

*<sup>10</sup> If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

*<sup>11</sup> For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

This pertains to those who teach false doctrine. But the application applies to those who are living in sin. When we "bid them God speed" which means to support them or encourage them or to place our blessing upon them, then the Bible tells us we are guilty of their evil deeds.

Now let us get to James.

## **I. The Possibility**

### **Notice James 5:19**

As James ends this letter he addresses all of those who would read his letter. The statement "if any of you do err from the truth" is a reminder to all who would read this letter that it was possible for anyone to drift away from the Truth.

**Application:**

Let me just take a moment and remind all of us that we all have the potential of drifting away from the Truth and falling into sin. We must never think that we are above sin. We must never think that we are on a spiritual level that is so high that we cannot fall to sin.

In 1 Corinthians 10:6-11 Paul pointed to the sins of Israel in the wilderness and then he records verse 12.

**1 Corinthians 10:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

This is exactly why we must be careful what we expose ourselves and our families to. Let me give you an example of how exposure to sin can affect us and our families.

Remember when Abram stepped out of the will of God in Genesis 12 as he faced the famine?

**Genesis 12:10**

*<sup>10</sup> And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*

He had with him all of his family and namely Lot.

**Genesis 13:1**

*And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.*

There was then strife between the herdsmen of Lot and Abram. So Abram gave Lot a choice of the land.

**Genesis 13:8-11**

*<sup>8</sup> And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.*

<sup>9</sup> *Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*

<sup>10</sup> *And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.*

<sup>11</sup> *Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.*

Lot chose the land that reminded him of EGYPT. That exposure to the world in Egypt gave him an appetite that led him into the midst of Sodom.

Let me get you back to James.

## II. The Motive

### Notice James 5:19-20

There are 2 points of encouragement here that should motivate us to confront those within our circle about their sin.

#### 1. If they are converted it will save their soul from death.

Here we see that if someone stays from the Truth and steps far enough into sin they can possibly die. This is what happened in the church at Corinth when some of the believers abused the Lord's Table.

### 1 Corinthians 11:28-30

<sup>28</sup> *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

<sup>29</sup> *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

<sup>30</sup> *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*

We talked last week about the danger of sin and how it can bring the affliction of God into a believer's life. That affliction can be:

- a) Everyday problems.
- b) Family problems.

- c) Sickness.
- d) Death.

**Psalm 88:7**

*<sup>7</sup>Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves.*

**Psalm 119:75**

*<sup>75</sup>I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.*

**2. It cuts sin off before it spreads.**

James tells us that when a sinner is converted that conversion will hide a multitude of sins. The idea is that when someone falls into sin then one sin leads to another and it becomes like a snowball rolling down a hill.

An example of that would be David when he stepped into sin with Bathsheba. She became pregnant and then he tried to cover the pregnancy by sending her husband to sleep with her. When he refused David had him murdered.

**Conclusion:**

Now there is something that needs to be said about stepping into someone's life to call them on sin in their life.

It must be done out of love.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

*<sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

*<sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*