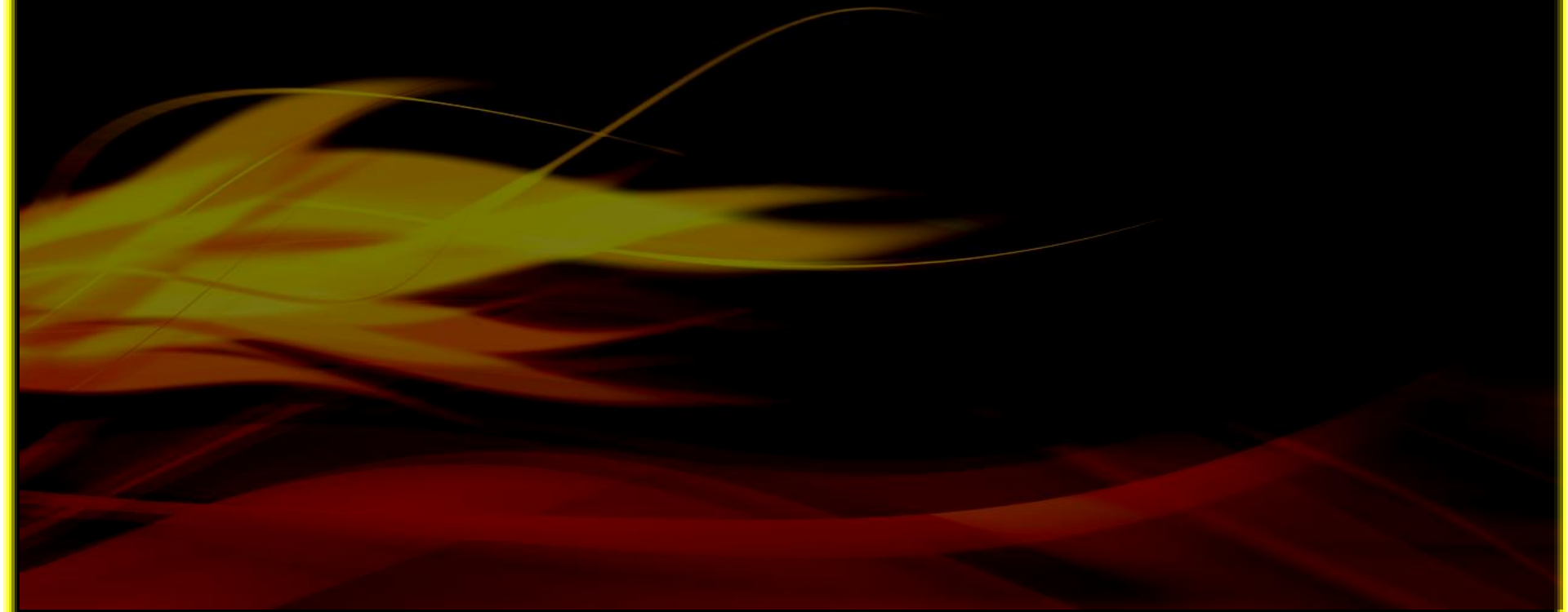


CARE 
MINISTRY

@

Millersville Bible Church

**What does it really
mean to be a Church
built by Christ?**



**Three Questions
from
I Corinthians 5:1-13**



1. What does “hand this man over to Satan” mean and imply about Church?

- v. 2 “removed from your midst”

- v. 5 says “to deliver such a one to Satan”

- v. 7 “clean out the old leaven”

- v. 13 “Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.”



A caring Church must be a place of loving, grace-based accountability.

Accountability - Helping people keep their commitments to God.

Accountability should offer protection based on positive and corrective reinforcements in a context of loving relationships of mutual care and encouragement.

(see: Hebrews 3:12-13; 13:17)

- “Fellowship is more than unconditional love that wraps its arms around someone who is hurting. It is also tough love that holds one fast to the truth and the pursuit of righteousness.
- For most Christians, the support side of the equation comes more easily than accountability... Maybe it’s because we simply haven’t taught accountability. Or maybe it’s because, in today’s fiercely individualistic culture, people resent being told what to do, and since we don’t want to “scare them off,” we give in to cultural pressures.”
- “But too often we confuse love with permissiveness. It is not love to fail to dissuade another believer from sin any more than it is love to fail to take a drink away from an alcoholic or matches away from a child. True fellowship out of love for one another demands *accountability*.”

(Chuck Colson, *The Body*, p. 130)

“If we can restore to full and intimate fellowship with ourselves a sinning and unrepentant brother, we reveal not the depth of our love, but its shallowness, for we are doing what is not for his highest good. Forgiveness which bypasses the need for repentance issues not from love but from sentimentality

(Chinese - 多愁善, Korean - 感 감 상 벽).

(John R. W. Stott, *Confess Your Sins*)

2. How does “handing the man over to Satan” relate to “the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord”?

3. What does it mean to not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

What does repentance look like?

II Corinthians 7:11

“See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.”

See what this godly sorrow has produced in you:

- earnestness – intense and earnest care (not a passive acquiescing).
- eagerness to clear yourselves – a desire to be exonerated.
- indignation – probably toward themselves for allowing sin to go unchecked in their assembly (or, toward the sinful member cf. 2:6-7).
- alarm/fear– toward God for their failure to respond properly to his apostle (cf. 4:21).
- longing – a desire to be restored to their proper place and to fellowship with Paul.
- concern – a burning desire to do what is right.
- readiness – to see justice done – (i.e. to see things corrected and made right).
- “At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.”

7 signs of genuine repentance

The offender...

- 1. Accepts full responsibility for his/her actions (Not, “Since you think I’ve done wrong...” or “If I have done anything to offend you...”).**
- 2. Accepts accountability from others.**
- 3. Does not continue in the behavior or anything associated with it.**
- 4. Does not have a defensive attitude about being wrong.**
- 5. Does not have a light attitude toward the hurtful behavior.**
- 6. Does not resent doubts about sincerity or the need to demonstrate sincerity (especially for repeated offenses).**
- 7. Makes restitution wherever necessary.**

**How can we *proclaim*
and *celebrate* a gospel
of grace and forgiveness
while enforcing
standards of morality ---
without becoming
a prideful and self-
righteous or watchful
and legalistic Church?**

Three Foundational Truths

- 1. The costly nature of saving grace (v. 7- “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed”)**
- 2. The transforming power of salvation (I John 3:9 – “No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.” cf. James 2)**
- 3. The necessity of community for spiritual transformation (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24; 13:17)**

Question

"Is it possible to be so casual about what it means to belong to a Church that belonging loses its effectiveness and removal becomes irrelevant?"