

GOD'S WISDOM & WARNINGS REGARDING WHO YOU SHOULD NOT FINANCIALLY SUPPORT Pt. 2

B. God Wants You to Exercise BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT When Supporting Individuals, Local Churches and Christian Ministries regarding ...

1. WHO you SHOULD financially support. {Hearing God's wisdom!}

- a. *Start with our own doctrinally sound local church PASTOR(S) and TEACHER(S) who spiritually feed and lead us. (1 Timothy 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6)*
- b. *Include also, if possible, doctrinally sound MISSIONARIES & MINISTRIES that clearly preach the Gospel, evangelize the lost, establish believers, plant churches, etc.*

2. WHO you SHOULD NOT financially support. {Heeding God's warnings!}

- a. **God does NOT want you to support pastors, teachers, missionaries, ministries etc. that DO NOT CORRECTLY PREACH THE GOSPEL or HOLD FAST to SOUND DOCTRINE.**

We should NOT support pastors, teachers, missionaries, and ministries that are preaching a false Gospel or teaching wrong doctrine ...

- 1) *Because in doing so, we are supporting a _____ & perhaps even an _____. (2 John 1:7; 1 John 2:18-28, 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:1-2) What is the real issue in this passage to be warned about?*
- 2) *Because in doing so, we may not receive a _____ at the JSC. (2 John 1:8) What are two important things to distinguish in this verse?*
- 3) *Because if we _____ them {by way of hospitality & support} into our house {church} or publicly _____ them {favorably}, we actually _____ in their _____. (2 John 1:9-11) What must we clarify regarding the biblical balance of truth & love?*
- 4) *Because how can we be faithful to the Lord while supporting a message or ministry that preaches a _____ gospel {than the Gospel of God's grace} which God actually _____ instead of blesses? (Gal. 1:6-12) Can believers in Christ become deceived and turn away from the true Gospel to a 'different' gospel? If so, how long does it take?*
 - Does this doctrinal departure impact your fellowship with and growth in the Lord? (1:6; 3:1-5; 5:4-12)
 - What is the standard for discerning the true Gospel from its counterfeits - the message or the messenger? (1:8-9, 11-12; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Acts 13:14ff)
 - In these important matters of faithfulness to God, what must you determine in your heart? (1:10)
- 5) *Because God commands us to _____ and _____ false teachers / teaching, not to endorse or support them / it. (Romans 16:17-18) How does this line up with a biblical understanding of judging?*
- 6) *Because a failure to _____ the Scriptures and to _____ & not support false teachers will result in the _____ of more _____ and the _____ of some believer's _____ instead of being a vessel for _____ for the Master, prepared for every _____. (2 Tim. 2:15-21) What about ministering to those believers who have been ignorantly captured by false teachers? {2 Tim. 2:22-26}*

From the Grace & Truth Bible Church Doctrinal Statement it reads: In seeking to strike a biblical balance regarding ministry and ecclesiastical separation, it is our understanding that believers should...

- 1) Mark out and avoid false teachers who would seek to infiltrate or influence our local assembly (Romans 16:17-18; Acts 20:28-32; 1 Timothy 6:20-21).
- 2) Refuse to approve of, minister with, or financially support churches or ministries that reject or distort the truths of the Word of God (2 John 7-11).
- 3) Seek to minister to (by way of sound teaching and materials) the doctrinally confused or those in error who are open to grace teaching and where there is reason to believe that an individual or congregation may be helped by such a ministry to become more biblical in belief and practice, as long as we are not restricted in our message or asked to compromise our doctrinal position (Titus 3:10; 2 Tim. 2:22-26; Acts 19:8-10).
- 4) Resist a prolonged personal ministry to individuals or groups if there is evidence that they intend to retain their compromised spiritual state or their relations with apostate organizations (2 Timothy 2:15-21).
- 5) Seek to support, encourage and fellowship with other individuals, churches or ministries of like-precious faith around the Word of God, yet without entering into any official organizational unity (3 John 5-8).

b. God does NOT want you to financially support those who are able to work but UNWILLING to work. (2 Thess. 3:6-15)

6 But we _____ you {this is not a suggestion}, _____ {writing to believers, not unbelievers}, **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ** {the divine authority behind these commands}, **that** {the content of this command} **you** _____ {to keep away or aloof} **from every** _____ {application is toward fellow believers as you expect the unsaved to act like the unsaved, as well as the first issue with the lost is believing the Gospel} **who** _____ {disorderly, irresponsibly, in a lazy, undisciplined manner} **and not according to the tradition** {the long-standing instruction and practice} **which he received from us** {in person and in writing - 1 Thess. 4:11}.

7 For you yourselves _____ {this was not a matter of ignorance} **how you ought** {dei - a must or necessity due to the nature of something} **to follow us** {follow our example}, **for we were not DISORDERLY among you** {when we were in Thessalonica; Paul's team practiced what they preached}:

8 nor did we EAT anyone's bread _____ **but** {we} _____ **with labor and toil night and day, that we might** _____ **to any of you,**

9 not because we do not have authority {the right to expect to be supported, for we do! - 1 Cor. 9:1-18}, **but to make ourselves an** _____ **of how YOU** {plural} **should follow us.**

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If {1st} **anyone** _____ {pres. active, indicative of the lo - is unwilling to work by choice}, **neither shall he eat.**

11 For we hear that there are some who WALK among you in a DISORDERLY {3x} **manner, not working AT ALL, but are BUSYBODIES.**

12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they _____ **in QUIETNESS** {verbal protest and complaining} **and eat their OWN bread** {that which they have worked or paid for}.

13 But as for you, brethren, do NOT GROW WEARY IN DOING GOOD.

14 And if {1st} **anyone** {any believer regardless of their excuse} **does NOT OBEY our word in this epistle,** _____ **that person and** _____ {close} _____ **with him, that he may be ASHAMED.**

15 Yet do NOT COUNT {to mentally arrive at a conclusion based upon the facts and not feelings} **him as an** _____ {for he is not}, **but ADMONISH** {to warn or exhort} **him as a** _____ {for he is!}.