

PASTORS & LEADERS BIBLE SCHOOL

SEMINAR NO 3

WHAT IF I AS A LEADER TRIP & FALL

Prevention is better than cure.

1. You are a prime target for the enemy. Strike the Shepherd & scatter the flock. The big dangers are **Isolation & Independance**. **Team, Plurality, & Friendship** are our weapons of defence. God said of Adam “It is not good for man to be alone” God is a team player The Trinity Father, Son & Holy Spirit are the first team in Community.
2. The relationship between David & Jonathan is helpful. **1 Sam 23 v 15-16**. Jonathan went to help David in one of his darkest hours. He even helped him to fulfill his destiny at great cost to himself. **V17**.

We all need friends & those we can confide in. Your wife or husband should be your best friend. Your leaders should be friends you need to lead out of relationship. Jonathan had an armour bearer **1 Sam 14 v 7**. Go ahead I am with you heart & soul.

I have relationships in this room that are open & honest. I can & do tell them everything. They can & do tell me everything. **James 5v16** Confess your sins to each other & pray for each other that you might be healed.

Sin breeds in the darkness Isolation cuts us off from friendship help & support. When we have open & transparent relationships it is difficult for sin to take hold. “You were once **Darkness** now you are **Light in the Lord**. Live as children of **Light**. **Eph 5 v 8**.

3. So how do we treat Leaders who fall into sin. We have to treat them on the basis of the Cross. There we find **Repentance & Forgiveness** leading to **Healing & Restoration**. The Bible is full of Leaders who **Sin & are Restored**. David, Moses & Peter.

So if Restoration is possible. How do we go about it. The issue of Church Discipline need to be sorted out when things are healthy not when you are faced with the need to act. You do not work out a plan to escape from a burning building when the fire starts. It is worked out when there is no fire.

4. I Tim 5 v 19-21.

First Leaders are to be protected from idle gossip & harmful accusations. Therefore it needs 2 or 3 people to bring a charge that needs to be taken seriously. When the accusations are looked into and are proven to be true Then Leaders are not above being disciplined. V 20-21 It is helpful to have someone who has an overseeing relationship with the Leaders & the Church at times like this.

5. Normally Restoration follows Repentance. However the deeper issues of what has caused this need to be looked into. Underneath the sin is a flawed character That needs time & work to be able to restore a person.

Leaders who fail in a sexual or ethical way have broken the trust of their partners & family & the members of the church. This can be mended but not quickly.

Leaders who sin in this way to need to stand down because they no longer meet the moral requirements of a Leader. They are no longer **Above Reproach Temperate, Self Controlled, Respectable, Having a good Reputation with outsiders.** 1 Tim 3 1-7. Leaders need time to rebuild their characters. A path of **Restoration** needs putting in place. This is where **Friends** who understand the importance of **Accountability** come in & are vital for this to **Succeed**. As we have said as Leaders we are the **Message** as well as being the **Messenger** **That message & the messenger are now compromised.**

6. If we are committed to Restoring fallen Leaders to ministry. These are some of the steps of Restoration.

REPENTANCE

Can we see in the Leader the fruit of True Repentance.

Did they come freely & **Confess** their sin or were they **Found out**

Is it a long standing affair or one moment of madness

Are they sorry because of the serious nature of the sin or sorry just because they were found out.

There needs to be public confession of this matter to deal with it cleanly & thoroughly Do not just deal with the consequences but deal with its causes.

1 Jonn 1v9 If we confess our sin He is Faithful & Just and will forgive us our sin And Purify us from all Unrighteousness. Praise God

The man is important but so is the Church. Paul Rebuked Peter & Barnabus & Nathan rebuked King David. God seems more concerned about protecting His Reputation than the Reputation of Leaders. In scripture we read about the **Good the Bad & the Ugly.** Gal 2 v 11-14 2 Sam 12.

True Repentance is motivated by **Brokenness of Heart** & the desire to Protect Gods People not the desire to retain & **protect Position & Power**. David's concern was for Israels glory not his position as King. **Ps 51 v17-18**

RENUNCIATION Proverbs 28 v13.

He who conceals his sin does not prosper but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. There needs to be a willingness to do what ever it takes to be free from sin in order to be restored to ministry. Jesus talks about plucking out an eye or cutting off a limb so that we are not compromised by sin.

RECONCILIATION MATH 5 v 23-25.

Jesus says be reconciled to your brother before you bring your act of worship. The Leader needs to be reconciled to God, To his wife & family, to the church & to the wider church if he has any hope of being restored to ministry. All of this takes time if we are going to deal with this properly.

RESTORATION

Often the Leader needs to work out these things in another church setting where they are not the centre of attention. He needs to move on so does the church.

If they are restored to public ministry that also is usually in a new setting. It needs to be in a church that knowing about the past falure are prepared to give an invitation knowing that the matter has been dealt with.

When a leader has to stand down we need to be generous with his terms of contract & salary which might include the provision of a house.

Our Gospel offers the **Hope of Forgiveness & Healing** to people who's lives are **Broken by sin**. We need a Biblical understanding of how we treat our **Wounded Soldiers** who are damaged in the battle.

The Bible says there is ony one **Unforgivable sin** That is Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Often in church we add on our own list of sins which we think are **Unforgivable**.

We are called to be **Prophetic** as we declare the high standards of a Holy God. We are also called to be **Pastoral** as we deal tenderly & with compasion with those who fall. **Gal 6 v1.**

Brothers if some one is caught in a sin you who are spiritual should Restore him Gently. But watch yourself as you also may be tempted.