

## SESSION NINE

### COMMITTED BROKEN SERVANT SPECIFICS

#### I. THREE FUNDAMENTAL EXPECTATIONS FOR COMMITTED BROKEN SERVANTS

As it is the basic responsibility of the church to encourage and spur up love and good works, these are three fundamental expectations for Committed Broken Servants at FFC (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).

**Grow** - Growing in godliness

*Romans 6-8*

**Give** - Financially

*2 Corinthians 8,9*

**Serve** - Sacrificially

*Hebrews 6:10-12*

##### A. **Grow** (*Luke 9:23*)

Growth is based on **training** in righteousness (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*); **pressing** on toward maturity (*James 1*); **learning** the Word of God, **fellowshipping** with other believers, **worshipping** God, and depending prayerfully on God (*Acts 2:42*).

We are all called to growth in godliness through the process of progressive sanctification. That does not mean we do not sin, but it does mean we live a life of confession, forgiveness, and repentance. A follower of Christ who is growing views trials and difficulties as opportunity to give God glory and grow to become more like Christ. Growing in godliness is necessary to be in the discipleship river of church ministries. If there is an obstacle to growth in your life, please call the FFC Biblical Counseling Center. There God's Word will be ministered and by His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, you'll be renewed to growth in godliness!

##### B. **Give**

Giving is actually just a disbursement of what already belongs to God. The basis of financial giving is as follows:

1. God is the **Creator**

*Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16,17*

2. Man is a **steward**

*Genesis 2:15-17; Matthew 25; Luke 19*

3. Man is to **tithe**

*Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23*

4. Tithing is not **enough**

*Psalm 40:6; 51:16ff; Isaiah 1:11*

Giving should be properly performed:

1. Thoughtfully

*Luke 6:31*

2. Unselfishly

*Luke 6:32-34*

3. Wisely

*2 Corinthians 8:3*

4. Sacrificially

*2 Corinthians 8:3*

5. Willingly

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

6. Joyfully

*2 Corinthians 8:2*

7. Bountifully

*1 Corinthians 9:6*

8. Cheerfully

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

9. Sincerely

*Matthew 6:4, 6, 18*

10. Practically

2 Corinthians 8:4

11. Lovingly

2 Corinthians 8:8,24

### C. Serve

Scripture makes it clear that serving in the local church is the privilege and responsibility of the believer (*Titus 3:8, Hebrews 10:24 & 25*). Next week you will have opportunity to consider practical aspects of serving at FFC.

## II. CHURCH MATTERS

FFC began as a group of people who got together and prayed, and this priority of prayerful dependence on God is continually observed through the prominence of prayer among the people of FFC. The Bible tells us that “...men always ought to pray and not lose heart...” in *Luke 18:1*.

### A. Meeting as a church

We expect all members to be **faithful** in attending services. It is one way we keep the church covenant with each other. We do not make coming to services mandatory, but you should not miss for secondary reasons, such as meeting with a friend.

On **Sundays** we set aside our first day of the week to gather with the church and worship God together. At 9:30am, we have our adult Bible Classes, with practical teaching on basics of Christianity for all ages. Then you'll pick up your kids (Pre-k and older) for corporate worship at 10:45am. Kids up to Gr. 5 will be dismissed for Junior Church. Since Sunday is the highlight of our week for believers, we prepare for them on Saturday nights. Take care not to be out late on Saturday. A sleepless night leads to an inattentive morning. Come rested and prepared through Scripture and prayer. Some folks have found it helps to have clothes laid out and simple food prepared the night before so the family is not rushed to arrive at church.

On **Wednesday** nights, we alternate between interactive bible study series in the sanctuary with Pastor Bob, and 4 week series wherein small classes are offered on multiple topics of relevant life issues. All members are expected to attend corporate services, and to become involved in the Sunday Bible classes and the Wednesday night studies.

Our time for **prayer** is on Saturday mornings from 8-9am. Our elders meet weekly to pray, and our deacons and elders meet monthly to pray. Men's and ladies **Bible studies** are offered on Tuesday mornings (6am) and Sunday nights (6pm) for men and on Tuesday mornings (10am) and Sunday nights (6pm) for women.

Your ministry at first becoming a member is to attend **regularly**. This honors God. This lets you get to know us and we get to know you. Take time to greet people around you and write down their names. Pray for people you have met, and pray for names on the church directory.

## B. What is the makeup of FFC?

### 1. Elders

FFC is an **elder** led church, according to Scripture. In Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5, a plurality of elders, was appointed in each local church. Meetings with the New Testament church included a plurality of elders (Acts 15:16, 20:17, 21:18).

A **plurality** of elders offers the rounding out of pastor's gifts in shepherding the flock. It helps in decision making as wise and godly men seek God's Word (Proverbs 15:22). A plurality of elders helps keep church leadership more permanent. If a pastor were to leave, there would not be a noticeable difference and the direction of the church would not change much, since its leadership is in several hands. A plurality of elders also helps the leadership to know the church. The pastor cannot spend as much time as he would like in meeting with hundreds of people, so a plurality of elders allows for more knowledge of the congregation by simply having more elders to care for those in the church. (Bob Froese, Steve Seibel, Rick Williamson, Jim Woodard, Steve Woodard)

#### 1. What are the responsibilities of an elder?

- a. **Prayer** (Acts 6, James 5:14)  
Elders are faithful in personal prayer, in prayer as a group, and in corporate prayer.
- b. Oversight in **shepherding** the flock (1 Peter 5:1-3)  
Elders in the church oversee many areas: sin, marriage, finances, worship, ordinances, doctrine, missions, ministries, membership.
- c. **Teaching** (1 Timothy 3:2, 1 Timothy 2:12)  
Men are given teaching and governing roles by order of creation. This does not mean elders do all the teaching in the church, but they oversee it.

### 2. Deacons

Deacons are those who **serve**. Acts 6 shows how the office of deacon was established. The elders did not think it was right that they neglect their responsibilities to "wait on tables," so they told the church to take this responsibility.

At FFC we have **facility** care deacons who take care of the buildings. That does not mean they do all the work, but they oversee and make decisions. We also have **family** care deacons who take care of the physical needs of CBSers. Each CBSer is put into a family care group where a deacon (or deacon's wife for women) calls them regularly regarding prayer requests they may have. Each family care group is also overseen by an **elder** for spiritual oversight.

Those who are chosen to be deacons are those who **evidence** serving others. They allow the church's good to supersede theirs and do not harbor selfish quarrels or division (James 4). Unlike the elder position, the deacon position does not include spiritual oversight of **teaching** and **governing**. Also unlike elders, Scripture speaks of females who

serve as deacons. Our family care deacons' wives play an integral role in the deaconing of FFC.

### 3. Church Staff

- Pastor (elder) – teaching and preaching
- Associate pastor (elder) – compassion ministries
- Ministry Directors – youth, college & sports, children, discipleship, biblical counseling, media ministries
- Administrative Assistants – office

## B. How do we conduct church business?

Pastor's **forum** meetings are held periodically, on Wednesday nights. Topics range to keep the body informed on reports on members, finances, buildings and property, children's ministry, elder or deacon matters, and various other business matters. Our goal is to practice full disclosure. We also practice church discipline as we are commanded to in Scripture. Discipline may sound harsh to our ears, but it is one way God commands us to love each other, and we will review how it is carried out in the next section. Most discipline we have comes from non-attendance, or neglect to meet regularly with the church (Hebrews 10:25). Please be encouraged to pray in advance for these meetings, as we seek to glorify God.

We also host an **annual** business meeting, wherein a report is handed out to all CBSers, and issues that require a vote are voted on. Direction dinners for the church body help us stay on track in ministry vision. Our prayer is for boring business meetings and exciting worship services, and God is faithful.

## III. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The church has a responsibility to see that all CBSer's are growing, giving and serving Jesus Christ. The process which Jesus commanded to be sure that the flock remains faithful, is church discipline as described in *Matthew 18:15-17*.

### A. The basis for church discipline

As we strive toward the goal to present "every man complete in Christ" we know that all believers fall short of the perfection of a Holy God. All are born with a sin nature (*Romans 5:12*), which is in constant conflict with a believer's new nature, until we meet Jesus through death or the rapture (*Romans 7:21; Galatians 5:17; Hebrews 12:4; James 3:2; 1 Peter 2:11*). Yet, there are publicly, habitually practiced sins which, if we don't repent of, harm the witness of a local body and more importantly the name of Jesus Christ. When situations like this arise in the body, Scriptural church discipline is FFC's responsibility, on the basis of:

1. The **Holiness** of God *Hebrews 12:11; John 15:2*
2. **Given** to the church *1 Timothy 1:20*
3. **Commanded** by Jesus Christ *Matthew 18:15-17*

The church is made up of followers of Jesus Christ. We are representatives of Christ's body, and part of His plan to display His glory here on earth. Our actions either subvert or uphold the truths we proclaim. Church discipline's goal is not to excommunicate, humiliate, or harm a particular member, but rather, is **always** with the aim of bringing the sinning brother or sister to repentance for God's glory. The purpose is never to destroy or punish, but to discipline

with the aim of chastisement towards the goal of **restoration** back into right relationship with Jesus Christ.

## B. The Scope of Church Discipline

1. **Division** within the church body
2. **Public**, un-repent sin of a member of the body
3. **False** teaching by a member of the body
4. Voluntary **neglect** of gathering with the body

## C. The Attitude of Church Discipline

1. With an **attitude** of love, and humility, absent of arrogance *Galatians 6:1*
2. With an attitude of **prayer** *Matthew 18:19, 20*
3. With a heart that is ready to **forgive** *2 Corinthians 2:7*

The goal of any church discipline is the restoration of the erring one to the Lord and subsequently to the body, as well as the protection and purity of the body of Christ.

## D. The Procedure of Church Discipline

**1. Matthew 18:15** *“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*

Contact is made with the person, and upon explaining *Hebrews 10:24-25* (and the “one another” passages), walks them through the paradigm of *James 1:12-15; John 16:8-11; 1 John 1:9; Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 7:8-11* urging them to make things right with God and return to the Church. If the purpose is restoration of one who has voluntarily neglected church attendance, the overseeing Elder goes to the person. (*Hebrews 10:24-25; John 15:12; John 17:21; Eph. 4:32; Colossians 3:16*)

**2. Matthew 18:16** *“But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’*

If there is no response (meaning the person does not repent and return to regular Body life), then the overseeing Elder meets them again, taking along the Family Care Deacon and others who have a relationship with that person as a witness, urging the Committed Broken Servant to make things right with God and return to Body for fellowship (*Hebrews 13:17*)

**3. Matthew 18:17** *“And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”*

If there is still no response, the Elders will present the person’s name to the congregation as a matter of discipline, at a Pastor’s Forum (to be held quarterly).

Over the next two weeks, the congregation can make personal contact (rather than phone or letter), and use the Word of God to exhort the person to make things right with the Lord and return to the Body (without asking “why”). Conversation at this point should be limited to urging them to restore their relationship with the Lord. When contact is made, the overseeing Elder is to be notified. If they show themselves to be argumentative, one should simply back away. If there is no response in the two weeks,

then the person would be dealt with as an unbeliever (thus further meetings would be for evangelism rather than fellowship), according to *Matthew 18:17*, *1 Corinthians 5:4-5*, *2 Thessalonians 3:6*, *Titus 3:9-11*, *Matthew 10:34-39*.

## **E. The Procedure of Church Discipline for Divisiveness without Repentance**

**1. Romans 16:17-20** *“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For whose who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech, deceive the hearts of the simple. But your obedience has become known to all therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”*

Those who cause divisions and are not obedient to church leadership are noted, and avoided or turned away from (*Hebrews 13:17*, *1 Thessalonians 5:12-14*, *1 Timothy 5:1*).

**2. Titus 3:10-11** *“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”*

A first and second warning is given to the divisive person. If there is no repentance after these warnings, knowing that such a person(s) is self-condemned, the response of the body is rejection (*Jude 8-16*).

**3. 1 Timothy 5:19-21** *“Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.”*

It is the responsibility of the Elders to lead in rejecting those who are divisive (*1 Peter 5:5*, *Hebrews 13:17*). In the event that divisive members leave, the Elders must follow through on all the steps of the Biblical disciplinary process for divisive people for protection of the Body of Christ.

## **F. The Restoration of a Disfellowshipped Committed Broken Servant**

**2 Corinthians 2:5-11** *“But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe. This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*

A disfellowshipped Committed Broken Servant must present his/her desire (verbally and in writing) to the overseeing Elder of his/her Family Care Group, regarding restoration to the body of Faith Fellowship Church.

The Elder will work with Faith Fellowship Biblical Counseling Center (FFBCC) to set up the individual(s) to meet with a biblical counselor for a specified period of time when (once a week) they will study the Word of God according to the “Clearing Conscience”

paradigm from *James 1:12-15; John 16:8-11; 1 John 1:9; Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 7:8-11*. If an outside counselor is involved (ie. Court mandate), Board of Elders will remain in contact with counselor.

At the conclusion of the time in Biblical counsel, there will be commendation or non-commendation of the individual(s) to the Board of Elders for restoration.

Upon commendation, the FFC Elders will meet with the individual(s) at which time he/she will walk through:

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Conception of the sin             | <i>James 1:12-15</i>                |
| 2. Conviction of the sin             | <i>John 16:8-11</i>                 |
| 3. Confess the sin                   | <i>1 John 1:9</i>                   |
| 4. Change- put off/renew mind/put on | <i>Romans 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 7:8-10</i> |
| 5. Confirmation of change            | <i>2 Corinthians 7:11</i>           |

The Individual(s) will then be given the opportunity to stand in front of congregation at a meeting prescribed by the Pastor, at which time he/she will walk through the above process with the Body.

At this point the congregation of FFC will be given the opportunity to welcome the individual(s) back into a restored relationship!