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ACCOUNTABILITY

God never said that our lives would be easy. In fact when the Apostle Paul was chosen to be a mouthpiece for God instead of the enemy, the Lord spoke to a man named Ananias these words, ***“But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”*** (Acts 9:15-16)

There is a suffering side to Christianity. The Apostle Paul was shipwrecked, arrested, stoned, bitten by a snake, mocked, scorned, hated and more. Yet despite these things he did not “quit the ministry.” He knew the price he would have to pay to do what he was called to do. Yes, these things happened, and they are still happening.

But what about when a leader falls into sin? What should a church do when this happens? Do they kick him/her out and destroy them? How does one deal with “sin in the camp”, not from reproach, but from one’s own shortcomings? When David sinned with Bathsheba it didn’t make the headlines on CNN or CBN. Yet, God knew all about it. He sent a prophet to David and as the story goes, David acknowledged his sin and repented. He was held accountable for his sin, and David took the blame. In Psalm 51 he acknowledged that he sinned against God.

Mankind since the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden has been tempted to do what they should not do. Temptation is not sin! It is when we yield to temptation that it is sin. David was tempted when he saw Bathsheba lying naked outside. Instead of turning his face from it, he looked, then brought her to his home, and sin happened. In the day that we are in, God is shaking things like never before. There are many stains in the body of Christ, and the cleansing must take place if he is to receive His bride without spot or blemish. We are to be accountable for our sin.

The Church has preached a message of “don’t judge,” but that is absolutely false Bible teaching. The Bible clearly tells us to go alone to our brother/sister if they are in sin and talk to them. If they repent, we win them back to God. If they do not repent, then we are to take a witness with us and speak to them again. If they repent, then praise God. If they do not, we are told to take it before the Church. If they repent, it is wonderful, but if they don’t, they are to be put out of the church and turned over to Satan. How often do you hear that teaching???? I doubt if you have ever heard of it, yet it is in Matthew 18:15-17. Yes, it is in the scripture. God hates sin!

We are held accountable for our sin and our response to temptation. We are soon to see much shaking in the Church. I can say that the Lord has shown me that there will be many well-known individuals in leadership that will be in the news because of “sin in their lives.” Sadly, most of these individuals will try to cover their sin like Adam and Eve and blame everyone but themselves.

Out of this exposure there will come great persecution to the Church. Why? Because we have not dealt with the sin by holding people accountable. We serve a Holy God, and He requires holiness from his "children." In Hebrews 12:14 it says, "***Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.***" Strong words, right? Yet very necessary words for us to live by. The word holiness is the Greek word *hagiasmos* which means proper, purification, sanctification, (set apart unto Christ).

The best way to know if what you are doing is wrong is to ask yourself this question, "Would Jesus do this?" That is the standard of accountability to live by. We must examine ourselves daily to see if there is anything that displeases God. If we continue to do the same sin over and over then we must ask for help from those that can help us. It is not wrong to ask for help. It is wrong to remain in sin. Accountability in our lives is an absolute must.