

Questions Posed for Study

Question: How are we to handle or treat individuals who leave church?

About the reason or reasons.

(John 21:1 - 3)

Intro: We live in a very mobile world where traveling from one location to another, one town to another is no big deal. Whereas decades back folks took advantage of local businesses, local schools and local churches. Now-a-days traveling to another town or two to attend church is not uncommon. Then again, some folks get in a huff and leave a church over simple, non-spiritual issues. At other times it is a sin issue! So, what is the biblical means by which we are to interact with those who decide to dropout or leave over seemingly unresolvable issues?

What does the Bible teach us about our responsibility to them?

I. The reason – John 21:3.

A. John records Peter's attitude of _____ – **verses 1 – 3a.**

1. Peter is _____ out of the ministry due to discouragement from which he had been called by Christ.
2. We see here that Peter is going back to his _____ trade and his discouragement is affecting not only himself, but _____ as well. **Verse 3b.**
3. Many pastors and congregants leave churches & ministries over _____.
4. I doubt that I would have _____ any differently than did Peter.
 - a. He had established a relationship with Christ and Christ with Peter.
 - b. All that he supposed to be true and with the crucifixion, _____ seemed to be gone and when hope is lost, _____ is sure to follow.
5. However, we see that Jesus hasn't _____ Peter off, rather Jesus _____ Peter out and helps him overcome his failure in first his denial of Christ, and his state of hopelessness. (**John 21:4 – 12; verse 4 & 12.**)
 - a. Jesus _____ them first.
 - b. Jesus addresses Peter to reveal to Peter, his own _____ – **Verses 15 – 19.**
 - c. Note **verse 19** ends with – "follow Me."
6. So, we are as well, when a member has done something that has caused them to feel unworthy and embarrassed, seek them out and _____ them to come back.

- B. When someone develops a _____ - _____, then what? **Romans 14:1.**
1. When someone becomes _____ of the leadership and continually is voicing a negative attitude.
 - a. They well may _____ to leave on their own volition.
 - b. Under which circumstances they should be _____ to leave.
 - c. The reason is the _____ they can do by their “**doubtful disputations.**”
 - d. “doubtful” – internal reasonings by the spiritually immature. Verse 1a.
 2. The spiritually immature need _____, instruction, discipleship, but not allowed to _____ the function and flow of the church that is solidly biblical.
 3. These are those folks who seek to continually and deliberately attempt to _____ the Pastor and elders because they either think they know more or how to better run the ministry. (Korah and Dathon – **Numbers 16:1 – 3.**
 4. Pastor’s are not to be a _____ – **I Timothy 1:6**, but have some semblance of experience and certainly spiritual maturity.
- C. When someone disagrees with the preaching from the pulpit, though the preacher is absolutely biblical, such a person should be allowed to leave _____ – **John 6:60 – 69.**
1. When a church and its leadership is preaching the Word of God, some will be _____ and controversy will arise from those who are of other persuasions.
 2. When those who began to _____ the Lord in droves, the Lord in silence watched them leave because the only way to keep would require Christ to change His message, and yeah, that was never going to happen and those called of God to serve God do not have the _____ to do so either. **(Matthew 5:18)**
- D. The unbiblical view that it is the Pastor’s responsibility to chase down _____.
1. The oft quoted passage is found in **Luke 15** about the lost sheep. **(Luke 15:3 – 7)**
 2. This is about a _____ getting saved as the Bible rightly interprets itself.
 3. The primary function of the local church is not about _____ and holding the hands of those who disagree with the leadership, or to coddle them.
 4. The function of the local church is to _____ servants and train to go out in to the world win the lost who want to be saved. **Mark 16:15.**
 5. As to the local church members – **Ephesians 4:11 – 16.**
- E. Our responsibility is always to _____ one for another as there is no commandment to do otherwise. **Ephesians 6:18** – “**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**”
- F. There is no mandate to _____ anyone, but rather to hate sin. **Acts 26:17 & 18.**