**Adult Sunday School**

January 23, 2011

**The wandering Prodigal**

**-The wavering Son -**

**on the principles of repentance restoration and correction**

(Luke 15:11-32)

Lu 15:11—*And he said, A certain man had two sons*

1. The Father’s desire was to have his son’s receive from him all things.

Lu 15:31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

* 1. The father’s desire for true repentance
  2. The father’s desire for pure Humility
  3. The father’s desire for a holy family

1. The Father’s decision was to rule His sons with **cords of love** weaved with true Repentance, Restoration and Correction.

24—*For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

32—*It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.*

1. The Father’s discipline proves His love
   1. “He divided **unto them** his living”

#### Accountability-Discipline are Signs of God’s Love working

* 1. He has divided unto us His love

1. The Father’s two son’s
   1. The younger son’s character is designed to represent the sinner.
      1. He was weary of his father's commandments,
      2. He was weary of the good order and discipline of his father's family
      3. Bound himself with cords of **lust**
         1. Greed
         2. Gluttony
         3. Gallivanting
   2. The elder son’s character is designed to represent the Scribes and Pharisees.
      1. He was weary of his father’s love
      2. He was weary of soul-winning
      3. Bound himself with cords of **anger**
         1. Selfish
         2. Self serving
         3. Self righteous

**Lessons to learn:**

1. Repentance with faith
2. Restoration with hope
3. Correction with Love
4. We are to receive His love continually.
5. We are to teach love constantly.
6. We are to love unconditionally.
7. Boundless Love and unending Joy

#### Titus 1:8 *But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;* 2:2 *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

#### Accountability and Discipline Are Signs of God’s Love

Church discipline “accountability” is criticized in this modern age. It is desperately needed in all ministries and one of the greatest blessings God has given to his people.   
  
The Bible never presents church discipline as being negative, legalistic or harsh, as modern society does. True discipline originates from God himself and is always presented as a sign of genuine love.

The Lord disciplines those he loves

Deut. 8:5—*Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.*

Job 5:17—*Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:*

Psalm 94:12—*Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;*

Proverbs 3:11—*My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be* ***weary*** *of his correction:* 12*—For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

1Cor. 11:32—*But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

Hebrews 12:6—*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth*.

James 1:12—*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

Rev. 3:19—*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

#### Most Corrective Discipline Is Private, Personal and Informal

#### Mr 14:36 *And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.* Romans 8:15—*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

#### 2Tim. 1:7—*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* Gal.5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

#### 1Cor. 9:25*—And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

**Formal Discipline May Involve the Entire Church** ([Rom. 16:17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%2016.17); [1 Cor. 5:1-13](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor.%205.1-13); [Titus 3:10-11](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Titus%203.10-11))

1. Saul and David are compared in scripture God rejected Saul because Saul rejected God,

Saul wanted to do things Saul’s way

David believed to Repent and do it Gods way

1. Jacob and Esau are compared in the scripture

Esau couldn’t find it in his heart to repent and do things God’s way, it takes Gods favor to repent and Esau rejected God’s Word.

God rejected Esau because Esau chose his own way

Jacob needed God’s presence and favor no matter what.

Jacob knew he had character flaws and he determined not to let go of God until He blessed him

Try to hold on a little tighter when corrected--don’t let go