



General Topics :: Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before?

Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before? - posted by Silo, on: 2010/4/8 13:22

What happens to someone's power after backsliding and comes back to the Lord?

I'm thinking of a man like Jimmy Swaggart. After he fell, will his anointing ever be the same? Will he ever experience even greater power than before?

Re: Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before? - posted by knitefall, on: 2010/4/8 13:30

I can tell you, the Anointing is from God only. And the Lord has been using Brother Swaggart in very important ways. The days of the old glory are gone. Some people still linger and try to keep their faith in the man. But there are many many more that a lot of people know not of, that God has in the wings. Brother Jimmy preaches the Bible better than he did before since God has made him right. Now, Brother Swaggart's Message is lined up greatly to the Heart of God. In that, we get Salvation, Sanctification and ultimately we'll be Glorified, not by our own merit or will power but by simple Faith in the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ- as Brother Jimmy has found out. But it's all in the simple keeping of our Faith in the Cross of Jesus for all our needs. Everything was met at Calvary. This is the answer for the sin problem and our source of Victory. He preaches nothing at all of human effort. However, many other preachers do today - saying that we are good people and they speak just short of "God owes us." Brother Swaggart's message is clear and simple. Just like the many that are on the platform with him, they know that "Christ is the source and the Cross is the means."

Excellent question.

Visit JSM.org and tune into the live broadcasting. Stay Blessed!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/8 13:32

Did the greatest days of Peter's ministry happen before or after he denied the Lord three times? Grace is always greater than our sin.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/4/8 14:09

Zechariah 1:3

Re: Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before? - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/4/8 14:33

The man may be renewed and restored in his relationship and walk with the LORD; but as far as preaching the gospel, he is disqualified

Re: Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before?, on: 2010/4/8 15:23

Can God remove a man's sins as far as the East is from the West?

Is the blood of Jesus sufficient to remove each and every stain of His "Pure and Spotless Bride?"

What sins count more than others? Would the sins of greed, ambition, and crushing the weak under your foot be as culpable before the Lord, as the sin of adultery?

How many, do you think that are in "the ministry" today commit these daily, and move on untouched by conviction?

When you talk about Swaggart's "anointing", let us be careful not to associate it with his influence and fame. They may not necessarily be the same.

He was without a doubt, the most respected and famous Pentecostal minister in the world at one time. His television teaching show was wildly popular, and millions tuned in on his Sunday service at Baton Rouge AG; His name was household.

He was a good singer and musician, producing top selling albums. It seemed that everything he touched came up roses, and he led a LOT of People in a sinners prayer. He preached against corruption in the pulpit, and against sin.

But, was this all anointing? Was all of this the power of God? There is a power in itself that the gospel possesses; it is the power of the truth. There have been cases of unbelievers believing through the speech of unsaved men.

I'll ask you this; "Is it possible for a fully repentant sinner to be totally filled with the Holy Spirit?"

If your answer is yes, then I ask ; "Is it possible for the Holy spirit to anoint this man, and manifest Himself through him?"

This is in reality what the anointing and the accompanying "ministry" really is. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit exalting the authority of Jesus through clean and cleansed vessels.

The answer then would obviously be YES!...but remember, it is a matter of character, and the fruits of being Christ's possession.....and never forget that the Anointing IS JESUS!!!!..

It is He who acts, and manifests Himself as He moves through surrendered and weak vessels, not some mighty man of power for the hour.

That is, of course , if it really the anointing from the ANOINTED ONE!

PS: I really liked Swaggart, and still do. He's just another brother, like me and you....and though famous, he nor anyone else should be exalted to the hero's status.

I have a motto. Man will always fail you.
Jesus never fails.

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 15:34

There are two separate issues that seem to be getting co-mingled here. Can brother Swaggart be forgiven? I would think that answer is obvious, yes he can be forgiven. Question number two, and it would probably come under the qualification for an elder, since we did not have tele-evangelists 2000 years ago. Can he still have a public ministry/

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 ¶ It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),
6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

So we see that a man must be above reproach and have a good reputation with those outside of the church. Brother Jimmy is disqualified on both counts. These men are definitely seen as Christian leaders, whether it is Jimmy Swaggart or Billy Graham or anyone else with a high public profile. Once that profile is tarnished in the eyes of the public, then that man must step down and away from the public. For it is for Christ's sake that we share the Gospel, it is for the name of Jesus that we live and share. If something was to take away from that, then the right thing to do, and I believe scripturally, is to retire to private life. If I remember correctly, brother Swaggart refused to be disciplined?brother Frank

Re: - posted by Silo, on: 2010/4/8 15:58

So what if I committed a horrible sin, as a young, single- pizza delivery man, but one day hope to be an elder or pastor. I know I'm forgiven but is there any hope to be a pastor if I committed a horrible act or am I disqualified.

I know Brother Jimmy is forgiven but is he disqualified only because it's adultery and he was in a high position?

Re: - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/4/8 17:08

Brother Silo; when a man is placed in the pulpit to preach, he is accountable to GOD to set an example for the flock. GOD does the disqualifying if he falls into sins!!

Re: - posted by trueblue, on: 2010/4/8 17:16

was Peter disqualified after his blatant denial and hypocrisy when Paul rebuked him..did not Samson kill more in His death than life.Was David disqualified from his kingship after murder and then later the taking of the census.Was John Mark disqualified...

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 17:18

Hi Silo, read the Scripture that I quoted. Do you agree or disagree with that Scripture?.....Frank

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 17:23

Hi trueblue, your mixing apples and oranges. Remember, when Peter was accused of playing the hypocrite, it was because he was playing to the Judaizers, and to resolve the problem they would have a council. This working out of practical theology has nothing to do with a recognized elder disgracing the name of Jesus on an international level and thus disqualifying himself according to 1st Timothy. I know that we can all have opinions on this, any discussion must be based on what Scripture tells us. What do you think of 1st Timothy and if it does not apply to brother Jimmy, why not?Frank

Re: - posted by trueblue, on: 2010/4/8 17:33

Hey Bro....sorry I'm unfamiliar with the term apples and oranges.Firstly Paul's rebuke was to Peter for not walking according to truth..(So you don't think that Peter brought disgrace to the master if he was not walking according to truth..what was he walking to??)Are we only disqualifying because of sexual immorality?.Secondly these are the pre conditions for eldership in 1 Tim...again David never lost the throne did he??...let me ask the question, is God's anointing on Jimmy's ministry try now or not??..if it is then why??

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 20:47

Hi trueblue, apples and oranges is a British term that simply means you are comparing two things that do not match. Peter was playing the hypocrite because he was acting as one under the law(in no way does that compare to adultery with a harlot) Paul, who had the revelation and spelled out that revelation in Galatians and Romans which the Apostles later accepted as Scripture, was teaching what it meant to be free from the Law and not to be under it.

Now, let's jump forward two thousand years and refer to Scripture which is our guide and a lamp unto our feet and is a basis for our opinions. 1 Tim, clearly spells out what it means to be an elder. The Scriptures are not broken and the Holy

Spirit does not contradict the Word. You talk about some "anointing," that brother Jimmy has. I have no idea if he has an anointing or not. What I do know is what the scriptures say. Time and time again we say on this site that we must act according to Scriptures and test all things by Scriptures. That is all that I am saying. Your counter argument seems to be "but he has an anointing." Brother, I am a Pentecostal and if I had a dollar for every time I heard that I would be a rich man.

I believe that you could ignorantly go to a Benny Hinn gathering and God could speak to you. Would that mean Benny Hinn has an anointing, or Todd Bentley or any other person who has a public ministry?Frank

Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/4/8 21:20

Quote:

-----David never lost the throne did he?

As great an example this is for God's restoration, Brother Swaggart refused correction, King David however cried for I believe 7 days straight begging for God's anointing and presence not to leave him. Also King David isn't the example we are to model our walk after but Jesus Christ who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

God Bless,
Matthew

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 22:02

Quote:

-----he man may be renewed and restored in his relationship and walk with the LORD; but as far as preaching the gospel, he is disqualified see 1 Corinthians 9: 26-27

Um, so if a man falls into sin he can't preach again?

So if a man wakes up after being asleep, shakes himself and by the Spirit mortifies the deeds of the flesh, and your saying that he is disqualified?

By what law?

Re: - posted by knitefall, on: 2010/4/8 22:15

Well isn't it obvious? Some here have not admitted that they have had fails and shortcomings. If you're honest, (and I think we all know who this is directed to), you will find many areas of fault in your own life. I don't condemn you, I love you in the Lord.

Many have fallen but there are also many that are thankful to God that those didn't stay down. Because now many more have been Saved. We are able ministers - that makes us all unqualified to "preach" after even just one ugly thought that we could do nothing to prevent from happening. Right?

I tried to give it before but I guess I failed. On the second post here it ought to clearly strike the thought that if it wasn't for the failure, there would be no greater understanding of the Cross of Christ. What? do we try to sanctify ourselves in the flesh now after first getting Saved? How you accepted Christ, so walk ye in...

Tune to www.jsm.org and watch the broadcast. And FIND something wrong with the doctrine. Bro Swaggart and the pastors with him at the Church have been seeing Churches left and right accept the message of the Cross and get blessed by that. That's like, what is walking in the Spirit? Is it living perfectly and never making any sin? I challenge us on the forum, find that out. It's really very simple if you understand Faith and Grace.

go to JSM.ORG

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 22:35

Quote:

-----So we see that a man must be above reproach and have a good reputation with those outside of the church. Brother Jimmy is disqualified on both counts. These men are definitely seen as Christian leaders, whether it is Jimmy Swaggart or Billy Graham or anyone else with a high public profile. Once that profile is tarnished in the eyes of the public, then that man must step down and away from the public. For it is for Christ's sake that we share the Gospel, it is for the name of Jesus that we live and share. If something was to take away from that, then the right thing to do, and I believe scripturally, is to retire to private life. If I remember correctly, brother Swaggart refused to be disciplined?

Peter fell from grace when he showed partiality towards the gentiles. He lived a double life to which Paul came face to face with Peter and told him that he was the blame for this. Peter was in the public eye.

Is the God of the New Testament the same as the God of the Old? Is there more mercy shown under that Old Covenant than the New?

God would have us show mercy than what the written word says. He said, "I want mercy not sacrifice". Mercy changes the whole message.

When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he could have spoken publicly about her and she would have been stoned, but it says that he was a just man, he denied the law and showed mercy.

God could have demanded David and Bathsheba to be stone according to the law, but God showed mercy toward David and others instead were killed for him. God denied His own law.

God told a prophet to take a harlot and to go in unto her and have children. It was unlawful to do such things, but God commanded him and he did it. God denied His own law.

And we say things like, "Scripturally" he is disqualified?

Scripturally David should have been disqualified from being King of Israel. There was no excuse for what he did, none whatsoever. He took a man's wife, kills the husband. The law says, Leviticus 20:10.

And we live under a "BETTER COVENANT", and we have the audacity to say, "Scripturally" he is disqualified?

Samson lost the anointing when his head was shaven. His anointing was wrapped up in the length of his locks. But the anointing grew back and he accomplished more in the latter end than his beginning. And we say "SCRIPTURALLY" he is disqualified?

And a greater than Samson is here.

There is not enough scripture that can be mustered up to convince me that God has lost the power to enable man who has fallen into sin and to make him more of a testimony despite his checkered past.

If we don't have mercy, our scripture is dead.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/8 22:49

I don't know if Swaggart has ever truly repented for what happened back when I was but a child. But 1 Tim 3 does indeed teach an elder is to be one who is above reproach. But that doesn't mean they have been above reproach all their Christian life. What 1 Tim 3 emphasizes is that whoever serves as an elder or deacon be men who have first been tested, and having been tested, proved.

I believe men such as Swaggart can find redemption, and again be above reproach in his Christian life, even if he fell in deep sin 30 years ago, and yes, even serve again as a pastor one day. Christ came to take away our reproaches and sin. To say that such men can never serve as an elder again, even should they prove themselves through living a life that is above reproach, is to show a very retarded understanding of God's grace and mercy.

But let me stress, these men must be tested before they serve again in that capacity.

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 22:56

Quote:
-----As great an example this is for God's restoration, Brother Swaggart refused correction, King David however cried for I believe 7 days straight begging for God's anointing and presence not to leave him.

Wouldn't you refuse the AoG corrections? I would, most of them are foolish psychological jargon.

Instead (if you want to believe it) he would tell you that the Lord told him to have two prayer meetings every single day. To which he would tell you that to him that was a hard thing to do, one yes, but two? God promised to show him what was missing in his ministry and life. He did what the Lord told him to do. For nine months he earnestly prayed until he received the answer to which God promised. It changed him, his ministry and all that cared to listen. I cared to listen and wanted to know more about what the cross of Jesus Christ was all about. The "message of the cross" to which he describes is the message for this day and hour.

Anyone who is struggling with sin, should hear what he has to say, it will help you understand your relationship with Jesus Christ and that cross to which He died on and our relationship to that cross, for that is where our victory lies.

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 23:00

KingJimmy writes.....

"I believe men such as Swaggart can find redemption, and again be above reproach in his Christian life, even if he fell in deep sin 30 years ago, and yes, even serve again as a pastor one day. Christ came to take away our reproaches and sin. To say that such men can never serve as an elder again, even should they prove themselves through living a life that is above reproach, is to show a very retarded understanding of God's grace and mercy.

But let me stress, these men must be tested before they serve again in that capacity."

First of all Jimmy, it was not 30 years ago. Secondly, this has nothing to do with redemption, unless you are using that word in a fashion I am not understanding? And the last sentence you said that men must be tested before they serve again in that capacity. Where do you get that from Jimmy? What do you base that teaching on? This is not about men's eternal souls or if they can be forgiven, for of course they can, this is about how the world views them. When you bring this dishonor to God amongst the world, you disqualify yourself from that position, not from walking with the Lord and being used, but from that position.....Frank

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 23:06

SNUFALAPAGUS SAID:

"And we live under a "BETTER COVENANT", and we have the audacity to say, "Scripturally" he is disqualified?

Samson lost the anointing when his head was shaven. His anointing was wrapped up in the length of his locks. But the anointing grew back and he accomplished more in the latter end than his beginning. And we say "SCRIPTURALLY" he is disqualified?

And a greater than Samson is here.

There is not enough scripture that can be mustered up to convince me that God has lost the power to enable man who has fallen into sin and to make him more of a testimony despite his checkered past.

If we don't have mercy, our scripture is dead."

BRAVO, MY BROTHER!...I could not have said it nearly as well....though I was feeling it.

When the scripture called for the spiritual to "RESTORE" a brother overcome in a fault, or sin, does that mean only

in a partial way?

Without offense to any brother, it is the CLERGY/LAITY heresy that gains it power from the Pulpit, and creates a PRIEST CLASS that somehow has the higher standard of unfailing performance; calling itself the "MINISTRY".

It is not. Jesus is the ministry, and it is always to the least of the brothers, whoever that may be. There was no pulpit in the Early church, or the gospel of Paul, and there was always an EQUAL plurality that kept PREEMINENCE at bay. This is what the Pharisee hated about Jesus, for they loved the praises of men more than God.

If God restores any man, from any sin, and chooses to use him, what man could stop Him, and sooner or later folks will see that it doesn't matter anyway.

The entire gospel story is about redemption, and full and complete redemption and restoration, and this applies to all....ELDERS, PROPHETS, KINGS, and PROSTITUTES. It is our hope, and faith, for at our core...we are all a weak mess in the light of His glory.

I'm sorry...but I have no reputation to protect. My testimony is that I need his mercy all the time.

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 23:11

Quote:
-----When you bring this dishonour to God amongst the world, you disqualify yourself from that position, not from walking with the Lord and being used, but from that position

Brother, you should quit while you're ahead. I wouldn't speak like this if I was paid. If I spoke this way to any brother who has fallen into sin, public eye or not, I'd be scared to death. If I use the written word to judge a man that he is disqualified, I would be disqualifying myself because in the process of time it will come back on my head. I have seen this work against me when I used the word of God as law.

I will be praying for you brother.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/8 23:25

Quote:

First of all Jimmy, it was not 30 years ago

If it were 50, 5, or 1 year ago... it makes no difference.

Quote:

And the last sentence you said that men must be tested before they serve again in that capacity. Where do you get that from Jimmy? What do you base that teaching on?

1 Tim 3:10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

This is applicable to deacons and "also" elders. Whoever serves in these offices must be tested to see if they can be found above reproach in their personal conduct. If so, then they are allowed to serve. So, whatever sin Swaggart or anybody else has committed in the past, doesn't disqualify them from future ministry so long as they have been restored in their relationship with the Lord, and over a period of time, prove to be above reproach in their conduct, and can serve as a model of the faith. Past conduct does not reproach present character... if such character can indeed be found.

Quote:

this is about how the world views them.

1 Tim 3 doesn't say anything about being above reproach with the world. Such is near impossible with the world. What does 1 Tim 3 say? It says:

1 Tim 3:7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

A good reputation outside the church is different than being above reproach. The world has no concept of grace. There will always be somebody out there who will look at you with a reproachful eye, for something they know you did 30 years ago. I've been a Christian 11 years, and my mother still reproaches me for things I did before then and early in my walk as a Christian, even though I have nothing to do with those things anymore.

Quote:

When you bring this dishonor to God amongst the world, you disqualify yourself from that position, not from walking with the Lord and being used, but from that position

You disqualify yourself from that position so long as you live in that sin. But should your character change, and you prove yourself to be a forgiven and changed person, it matters not what the world thinks of your past misconduct. The world is determined to never overcome that.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/4/8 23:26

Quote:

-----Wouldn't you refuse the AoG corrections? I would, most of them are foolish psychological jargon.

Actually no I wouldn't I am a Youth Pastor at an AoG church, I understand your point with the correction part. I mainly wanted to point out that Jesus Christ is our example to follow and not King David.

Re: , on: 2010/4/8 23:50

"If it were 50, 5, or 1 year ago... it makes no difference."

Then why mention 30 years ago when it was not? say . Jimmy fell and the world mocked. Jimmy refused correction and then fell again a couple of years later and the world mocked. No where in Timothy does it say that given the passage of time you can then be above reproach and re-take your position as an elder and then fall again and have another passage of time and again re-take your position as elder. With much responsibility comes much accountability. Listen to what Matthew Henry says on the subject.....

II. In order to the discharge of this office, the doing of this work, the workman must be qualified. 1. A minister must be blameless, he must not lie under any scandal; he must give as little occasion for blame as can be, because this would be a

prejudice to his ministry and would reflect reproach upon his office.

15. He must be of good reputation among his neighbours, and under no reproach from former conversation; for the devil will make use of that to ensnare others, and work in them an aversion to the doctrine of Christ preached by those who have not had a good report."

We clearly dis-agree on this and that is fine. Let us both be fully convinced on what we believe and why and agree to disagree.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/9 0:55

Quote:

No where in Timothy does it say that given the passage of time you can then be above reproach and re-take your position as an elder and then fall again and have another passage of time and again re-take your position as elder.

No... the text does not say that. But it doesn't say what you say either. It simply says, test the character of men aspiring for these offices, and if they be found above reproach in their conduct, then they are free to serve in this capacity.

Regarding Swaggart and his actions, I don't personally care what he's done. I've not followed him, and don't pretend to know all that transpired in his ups and downs. He was before my time. I've only talked about him in a purely theoretical way since his name was brought up. We could just as well talk about Ted Haggard, or any other big name leader who has fallen.

Quote:

We clearly dis-agree on this and that is fine

We do disagree, but, this is not an issue that I take lightly, and one I do not easily let go of. I've personally known two pastors that have fallen into gross sexual immorality while pastoring (though I never sat under them, I knew them through college). One of these guys probably should've never been pastoring to begin with. But whatever the case, it is my prayer and expectation that they will both again serve God as pastors one day.

To disqualify them for life, especially if their lives should change for the better, and they truly become men of deep spiritual stature, would in my book, be a terrible terrible thing. For should the day come that they become mature spiritual men, and are living lives above reproach, having been tested, there is no reason they should not be allowed to serve in that capacity. For they are no longer men of reproach, but men of Christ like character, whose example should be followed and lifted up.

To deny them this opportunity is to diminish the awesomeness of God's grace, and to rob the community of the faithful the blessing that God has made these men to be. The only reproach these men have comes from people who are looking at them for who they once were, instead of looking at them for who they presently are. To say these men can be redeemed, but not restored to their former position is an awful slight against the notion of being redeemed. What God redeems He also restores. Grace is greater than sin. Where sin abounded, grace "much more" abounded. A grace that cannot restore is a grace that cannot "much more" abound.

Re: - posted by trueblue, on: 2010/4/9 3:36

Hi Frank..As our brother said earlier Peter held the office of Apostle (Public ministry) and so he walked not according to the rule..which means he was in sin..So did Peter not have the Holy Ghost even though he had not a bible in front of him .So let me ask you is it just the BIG sins that only disqualify..Brother you misunderstood me..if Jimmys ministry at this time is being blessed then who is blessing it..I am saying if there is anointing on His ministry at this time then God is with him..The requirements stipulated for eldership are quite clear in 1 Tim..that's before one enters into ministry..The question is does one become disqualified if he fails while in ministry..if this be true then there would be empty pulpits in every church.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/4/9 8:06

hi, let there be no mistaking jsm is jsm and not jcm.

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 9:27

Jimmy writes.....

"No... the text does not say that. But it doesn't say what you say either"

Yes it does brother, unless you are making an argument from silence? It specifically states the qualification for this office . I see you make no comment of Matthew Henry ? Scripture is Scripture and this Scripture is about qualification for the office of elder. This has nothing to do with grace or how many Pastors you have known that have fallen or how sad you would be if they did not get to be pastors again.

Being redeemed has absolutely nothing to do with holding office in the Church. You can continue to repeat the statement, but it has nothing to do with holding office and whether some people like it or not, Scripture lays down a standard for those holding office.

Now the same book talks about the office holder being the husband of one wife. This particular subject has ravaged the American church, the subject of divorce. The American church is in crisis, and it starts with a crisis of leadership. Given the logic that you have put forward Jimmy, then a Christian man can get divorced, not for any Biblical reason, then ask for forgiveness for it, remain married and hold office as an elder thus negating another qualification for leadership. Lest we forget, these qualifications come from God Himself.

One final point, grace restores a man before God. A man can commit a crime and then be forgiven by God and be completely restored before the throne of grace, but still pay for his crimes in the natural. Example, I could rob a bank tomorrow and kill a man while doing it. I get caught and get sentenced to life in prison. In prison I repent of my crimes and the Lord forgives me and restores me. Yet, when I wake up the following morning, I will still be in prison because this is the natural consequences of my actions. One of the natural consequences of a man who brings the ministry into dis-repute by his actions is that he can no longer hold the office of elder. Does that mean he cannot have a powerful ministry where he shares his testimony and praises God and gives Him honor and glory for His grace that has restored him to a right standing before the Lord? Of course not.....Frank

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/4/9 9:37

Power?

Restored to power? hmmm.

I thought the church elders, pastors are called to serve?

What happened to serving? all are called to serve regardless of the past. If any and all would concentrate on serving, the issue of power would be irrelevant.

It just might be the best for all if no one is 'restored' to power...

Obviously, I dislike the concept of 'power' being exercised by one individual over another. That is carnal, is it not? Remember what Jesus had to say about that? Luke 22:23-27.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/9 9:45

Quote:

Yes it does brother, unless you are making an argument from silence?

The essence of my argument is that a man who has truly overcome his fall is a man who is living above reproach, and is thus qualified. The essence of your argument is that a man can never overcome his reproach, and forever bears it. My argument is that a man who has overcome his fall, and is presently living a Christ-like life in all aspects (including being the husband of only one wife) is a man who is no longer under reproach. You are insisting that such a man will always be a reproach, and can never rid himself of that, nevermind his present spiritual state.

I'm sorry Frank, I love you brother, but that's not Biblical. If a man is presently living a victorious life above reproach, and has clear history in this, he is no longer under reproach. Thus, the qualification that he be "above reproach" is satisfied. Thus, the Peter's of the Church can be restored to their eldership, in spite of their denial of Christ, and in spite of siding with Judaizers.

Re: MANASSEH and rivers of mercy., on: 2010/4/9 9:59

This is the scriptural chronicle of Manasseh, of whom it is written; FILLED THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM WITH BLOOD..."

2 Chronicles 33:1

Manasseh King of Judah

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years.

2 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them.

4 He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever." 5 In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts.

6!!!!!! He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom,!!!! practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft,!!!! and consulted mediums and spiritists.!!!!

He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.....

9 But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. 11 So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner,...and....

Put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.!!

12 In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

13 And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom.

Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

18 The other events of Manasseh's reign, including his prayer to his God and the words.....

Manasseh would have put NERO to shame, yet he was forgiven, and restored..even in Fullness. We will meet Manasseh in Heaven one day, Not because of any goodness in himself, but for glory to a God who delights Himself in MERCY.

The first King, Saul, was not forgiven; for seemingly minor infractions compared to Manasseh. God looks upon the heart; man looks upon the flesh; the outward.

Certainly, in spirit and in type, Manasseh would qualify as the ordained authority in Israel. A pastor may certainly be restored to his authority in the Church also. God sees real faith and repentance.

Romans 9:16

"So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy."

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 11:11

Jimmy writes....

"I'm sorry Frank, I love you brother, but that's not Biblical"

Brother, I have given you the Scriptures that lay down the qualifications for an elder. In reply, you have given me your opinion, which is fine and you are entitled to it. It's interesting that you make no comment as to the Matthew Henry commentary, which simply lays out what this Scripture is saying. Also you make no comment as to the man who would be divorced, for non Biblical reason, re-marries and then lives 20 years above reproach or however long you would deem that the time frame would have to be (please clarify) Would that man be qualified to be an elder? If not why not?

I hate to stress the point, but this Scripture is not about a man not finding forgiveness or redemption before the throne, it's simply about whether a man is qualified, as laid down by God Himself, to be an elder. I love you too brother, but I think I am going to stick with the Scriptures on this one :).....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 11:24

Quote:

-----Scripture lays down a standard for those holding office.

Where was the standard at for David and Bathsheba? The standard said, "the adulterer and the adulteress are to be stoned". Where was the Standard when David killed Uriah?

David said that he meditated on the law of the Lord day and night. And he knew that he deserved death and cried unto God for mercy and God heard him and David's child died in his stead.

Did David stop being King?

There were certainly consequences, however, he still retained his office of being a Pastor over the flock of Israel, he was subject to the reproaches of those around him.

Now, if God can wink at all that and forget about it, how much more under the New Covenant of a "better covenant"? God certainly raised the bar of tolerance.

General Topics :: Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before?

What a merciful God we have. He is merciful to the merciful, the more mercy He shows me the more I fear Him.

Please don't use the words of Paul as if he established a law that we are to be bound with. Our righteousness is by faith and if we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Christ Jesus the righteous who will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/9 11:52

Quote:

Brother, I have given you the Scriptures that lay down the qualifications for an elder. In reply, you have given me your opinion,

I have exegetted the Scriptures here. Your opinion that once scandalized always scandalized is unfounded in this passage, and is something that does not hold up. You are totally discounting the possibility that a man could be re-tested, which is something the passage does not do. You insist in holding him forever in reproach, which is something that passage does not do.

Quote:

It's interesting that you make no comment as to the Matthew Henry commentary, which simply lays out what this Scripture is saying.

I didn't see Matthew Henry saying anything worth commenting on.

Quote:

Also you make no comment as to the man who would be divorced, for non Biblical reason,

I did in passing, and consider it a side issue not really germane to the topic, since we are talking about whether a fallen individual can become above reproach again. But since you asked again, I will address it. An elder must be the husband of one wife, period. Somebody who is involved in an unbiblical remarriage cannot qualify as an elder, because Biblically speaking, he is the husband of more than one wife. He is of course free to do other ministries within the Church, but, cannot be held up as a model for the Church, because he is involved in an unbiblical remarriage, which automatically makes it impossible for him to meet the qualification in 1 Tim 3.

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 12:02

Jimmy writes.....

"Somebody who is involved in an unbiblical remarriage cannot qualify as an elder, because Biblically speaking, he is the husband of more than one wife. He is of course free to do other ministries within the Church, but, cannot be held up as a model for the Church, because he is involved in an unbiblical remarriage, which automatically makes it impossible for him to meet the qualification in 1 Tim 3."

So, there is no redemption from an unbiblical re-marriage since you are tying redemption to re-instatement. Well, fair enough, I guess you are picking and choosing which qualification stands and which does not.

"I didn't see Matthew Henry saying anything worth commenting on."

Not sure what to make of that, since what he spoke of was "germane," to the very subject we are discussing. It's fine to disagree with Matthew Henry if you like. Last point...no clarity on the time frame?.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 17:22

Quote:

-----which automatically makes it impossible for him meet the qualification in 1 Tim 3.

I like it when God goes over our head and does things regardless of what we think is "Standard".

I have heard it time and time again that "God will not go against His word". God has and will on occasion.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/9 18:51

Quote:

So, there is no redemption from an unbiblical re-marriage since you are tying redemption to re-instatement.

I believe he could be re-installed if he met the qualifications of being beyond reproach, namely, through the death of his current wife, or if his former wife re-marries or dies. But so long as he lives as somebody who is not the husband of one wife, then he is not above reproach and cannot qualify, and thus, cannot be re-installed.

For example, an elder at my former church was a divorcee from 20+ years ago. He never remarried, but stayed a eunuch for Christ's sake. His former wife did remarry though. Under the guidelines of 1 Tim 3, I believe he still qualifies, as he is still technically the husband of one wife.

Quote:

no clarity on the time frame?.

Paul never establishes any time frame for anything. He says in 1 Timothy 3 that elders should not be new converts. Yet we see in Acts that he appointed men as elders who were saved only a couple years. Now a days, I can't say I know anybody who has ever served as an elder without being a Christian at least 10 or more years. I think the actual time frame is entirely a subjective thing, and depends more on a what "seemed good to the Spirit and to us" sorta thing.

Personally for me, if an elder fell and was looking to one day be restored, I would like to see at least a 2-3 year probationary period before the subject was ever brought up again.

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 20:52

Jimmy writes.....

"I believe he could be re-installed if he met the qualifications of being beyond reproach, namely, through the death of his current wife, or if his former wife re-marries or dies. But so long as he lives as somebody who is not the husband of one wife, then he is not above reproach and cannot qualify, and thus, cannot be re-installed."

Forgive me brother but I believe that you are all over the place on this issue.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/4/9 21:37

These are all sticky and complex issues, and unfortunately, life is a very complex thing because people do stupid and sinful things. I wish it were not this way. But this is the world we live in, and these are the people we come across, and the people who fill our churches. I wish it were just as simple as eliminating a great number of people, but it is my conviction, the Scriptures never do such, or encourage us to do such. If somebody is above reproach, and is living the model Christian life in all aspects, and bears the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3, then let them serve.

Re: , on: 2010/4/9 22:13

Jimmy, there are many precious saints who qualify. The church may be full of people who do not, but there are many saints who have not been caught up in public scandal or been divorced.

In Act 9 we see Paul stating that it would be better for him to die than to have his glorying made void. Paul refused to take money from these people so that he could preach the Gospel and not be accused of doing it for money. Why do I raise this point? Paul was a radical server of Christ and the Gospel and he would rather die than to have the Gospel somehow bismirched even by a false accusation.

Now this is a man who is full of the Holy Spirit. A man sold out to the Gospel and to the Lord Jesus he served. The Gospel was everything to these men and they would die rather than bring any kind of dishonor to it. Oh that we had men of similar Spirit today.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/10 2:06

As to whether Jimmy Swaggart can be used by God in a ministry capacity as before, I'm not sure (haven't looked into this fully yet). One thing I'm sure of, if he has repented of his sin with the same attitude that the man in 2 Corinthians had (who had had sexual relations with his mother) then he'll experience the fullness of restoration (at least on a personal basis) which God has for him.

"Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter." 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

I think this is the main issue of concern for brother Swaggart, and for all of us. That we deal with our sins, by viewing them as God views them, and then leaving them at the cross of Christ. (Tonight, God was challenging me anew in this area as I listened to a Zac Poonen sermon. This was the first I have ever listened to. In it, I heard his challenge for us as Christians to call our anger 'murder' as God views it, and to call our lust 'adultery', just as Jesus put it.)

God bless all.
In Jesus,
John

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 4:41

Quote:
-----I have a motto. Man will always fail you. Jesus never fails.

@Brothertom
I have part two of that motto.

Jesus will always forgive you. Man will not.

Re: My strength is perfected in weakness., on: 2010/4/10 9:07

"I have a motto. Man will always fail you. Jesus never fails."..Brothertom

.....

"I have part two of that motto.
Jesus will always forgive you. Man will not."..Codek

Amen Codek!...that's funny! But why do I want to weep? It is true.

I want to say, that this idea that an elder can never be restored and retake his office, IS NOT IN THE BIBLE!

It is not there. What is there is an open door, a conjecture, that could be interpreted as such. This is similar to what Jesus confronted when He said:

Mark 7:6

6. "And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS,
BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.
BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN."

8."Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

9. He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition."

Matthew 23:23

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

So we see that along with judgment, MERCY AND FAITH are integrated above legalism...

There are denominational conclusions that are taught as Bible, and as I noted before, they are but conjecture. They have been received as Bible, but they are but doctrinal stances that men have assumed somewhere along the line, and they have remained.

They in themselves may not be evil, but the danger is that we let these override mercy and faith, which is at the very heart of what the gospel IS.

A man, by committing adultery, is not disqualified from EVER entering into the ministry again, and let us be clear...we are talking about eldership.

This brings me to my next point. Eldership is always LOCAL! It is not extra-local, though a man may carry his gifting and calling extra-local,.... the authority of the eldership remains in a church...not THE CHURCH.

How many of you have actually met Jimmy Swaggart? Do you KNOW if he has repented, and is clean? The point is,

we judge by appearances, the media, etc. The local body of elders around him are the ones, the ones that know him.....to decide whether or not he is able to elder or not, according to the witness of the Holy Spirit.

For those of you who have not read it, I would recommend that you get ahold of John Bunyan's AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

He wrote Pilgrim's Progress...

He was gloriously saved, and ministered, and gloriously backslid, and recounts his restoration.

There are several accounts of missionaries and preachers throughout time that have had similar grace experiences. Being an elder, or not, is but a side issue. If Jesus restores, He restores, and that is all the way; and a broken man, a former Pastor, will often make a better Shepherd after his fall, for he will not depend on his own strength any longer.

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 9:16

Tom, you write.....

"A man, by committing adultery, is not disqualified from EVER entering into the ministry again, and let us be clear...we are talking about eldership.

Tom, the basis of at least Jimmy and my discussion has nothing to do with adultery. It was a discussion on 1st Timothy 3 and what it means. Also, this discussion has really nothing to do with Jimmy Swaggart, he just happens to be the example that was used to discuss 1st Timothy. Let me ask you a question brother, do you deny that 1st Timothy lays down a standard or qualifications for being an elder? Lets keep it to that tight question and perhaps we can move on from there.....brother Frank

Re: Mercy overcome condemnation...even in the eldership, on: 2010/4/10 10:23

"Let me ask you a question brother, do you deny that 1st Timothy lays down a standard or qualifications for being an elder? Lets keep it to that tight question and perhaps we can move on from there".....brother Frank

Of course I don't deny that, and it seems that if I said yes I did, that it would be ludicrous. The issue, as I see it with you, is that if an elder did fall into Adultery, or other egregious sins, then he would no longer be "blameless", and have a "good reputation without".

So then, the issue becomes a matter of interpretation, or indoctrination. I say that these scriptures emphatically do NOT specifically deny complete restoration to eldership, and the idea of blame or Godly reputation is assessed by conjecture, NOT SCRIPTURE!

He may have a better reputation without, after his humbling and restoration, and attain a higher grace in his character to be considered blameless after his fall.

You have decided, for whatever reasons that this is absolutely forbidden.

"Let's keep it to that tight question and perhaps we can move on from there.....brother Frank"

The answer to your conclusion, as I see it, is that it is highly opinionated. I don't know if "we" can move on from there in agreement, but that certainly has zero to do with my respect to you as a brother and friend.

There are probably many more that agree with your interpretation than mine, but it is NOT crystal clear in the word. Again, the local assembly elders know the man, the circumstances, his heart. The gifts and callings of a man are without repentance, and if a man is called to be a Shepherd by God, is he forever disqualified by mortal sin?

To me, it is clear that he is not, and where sin abounds, Grace does much more abound.

Another thing. Ministry and true Godly authority is the actual impartation of Jesus Himself. This is the origin of real power. If a man is restored to this, after a fall, No man could ever trouble him; denying that. If a local body of elders come to that conclusion about a restored comrade, would you step in and deny that?

It's a big problem with denominations. "We believe..."...and set forth a pattern of laws that interpret scripture for the rest.

The sin of ambition and the desire to Preeminence; To become a Preacher, and the respect of many as a minister is much more dangerous than carnal temptations. This is because it is hidden away in the heart of the "Pastor", or preacher. It cannot be readily seen, therefore it is much more difficult to repent of..... but if it were, it would shock because of its monstrosity.

We are all called to the ministry, and the brotherhood exceeds the eldership. Elders are called to feed, protect the body, and assure that the Holy Spirit is not quenched.

THE CHURCH IS NOT A MEETING....WHERE A MASTER OF CEREMONIES IS REQUIRED....up front of course.

The church is a family and a community. That is why we are called brothers and sisters.

THIS CLERGY LAITY HERESY , AND THE ENSUING IDEAS OF WHAT MINISTRY IS OR IS NOT, HAS RUINED MORE SOULS THAN ALL THE DIVORCES AND ADULTRIES COMBINED. It is this that may "ruin your testimony" more, in my eyes.

LUKE 22:23

"And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

24. And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

25. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Jesus ; just before His crucifixion....the final words to His apostles..

So, if a brother is called to serve, and is cleansed entirely and restored after a fall; he can no longer serve?..I think not.

Again; my love and respect for you Frank, as a man of God.

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/10 10:45

There's a question which I think could be asked on this topic. I think Appolus is right in pointing out that Jimmy Swaggart had refused the correction of the church body. Correction by some form of church body was biblically warranted. At the time, I felt that this also represented a refusal to accept God's discipline, since one who has truly repented of their sins will also see the need to be tested (as outlined in 1 Timothy) as a good and wise thing.

As some have pointed out, we cannot know brother Swaggart's heart, and what has taken place over time, in terms of his attitude towards his sin. So not knowing brother Swaggart's heart, we can speak of a hypothetical case instead. What if a brother sins a sin of adultery and 'clearly' (in a way which is obvious to those in the church and those on the outside) repents of his sins ?

Would this make a difference as to whether one can enter the ministry again ? Admittedly, even if one has truly repented with a 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 kind of repentance, some will always doubt the genuineness of one's repentance, though many will recognize it, if it bears the marks of humility and brokenness.

At the same time, I would suggest that a major problem often is, that when a leader falls, (speaking in general terms), we do not see the kind of repentance referred to in 2 Corinthians. This is the kind of repentance that goes beyond tears, and includes a willingness to be tested. It's the kind of repentance that has the glory of God and even the reputation of the body of Christ, as passions that possess the heart, and direct our actions and speech.

In Jesus,
John

General Topics :: Can someone like Jimmy Swaggart ever be more powerful than before?

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 16:58

Quote:
-----Now this is a man who is full of the Holy Spirit. A man sold out to the Gospel and to the Lord Jesus he served. The Gospel was everything to these men and they would die rather than bring any kind of dishonour to it. Oh that we had men of similar Spirit today..

Amen to the latter portion of this quote.

The Gospel they were contending was the Faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

The people that Paul had to contend with were the Judizers. Every time Paul ministered to new converts this crowd of Jews would come in and try to confuse the minds of these new converts into incorporating the law. This was what he was willing to die for, the upholding of the salvation through grace by faith. This was a hard thing to do, still is to this day.

For this is the gospel, it's the good news of Jesus Christ's sacrifice that opens the door to any that the Spirit of God is drawing into.

The election of the elders is not the Good News.

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 17:02

Quote:
-----I heard his challenge for us as Christians to call our anger 'murder' as God views it, and to call our lust 'adultery', just as Jesus put it.
.)

Good Point!!

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 17:11

Quote:
-----If Jesus restores, He restores, and that is all the way; and a broken man, a former Pastor, will often make a better Shepherd after his fall, for he will not depend on his own strength any longer.

I have heard from medical expertise that it's better to have a broken bone than a fracture. A broken bone will heal and be twice as strong as the original. But a fracture will always have that quality of being fractured again. And Brother Arthur Rightus will show up later in life to remind you of that fracture. :-)

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 18:07

Well, I think all have had their say on this subject and it looks like we shall agree to disagree which I am comfortable with. I appreciate the brothers and sisters that entered into this discussion as mature saints, genuinely seeking to see what the Scriptures say. Looks like the name callers still have a wee bit more growing up to do, but there you go, this is a forum :).....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/4/10 20:02

I've been following this thread quite closely, did I miss something? Who was name calling?

Re: - posted by Santana (), on: 2010/4/13 9:11

Medical experts say that it is better to break a bone than to fracture it. When you break it, it heals and becomes twice as strong as the original. Fracturing it causes it to come back later (arthritis).

I think if we are truly broken, we become twice as strong as before because God finishes the work he starts. Amen?

Re: Jimmy Swaggart - posted by mkal, on: 2010/4/13 23:26

I believe, regardless of the sins involved, that in seeking God and His Word, JS found the truth about his fall, and as well rediscovered a great truth regarding the cross. Men like Leonard Ravenhill and Alan Redpath, A. W. Tozer and others knew the way of the cross. So very few in the church today preach regarding this reality - I am referring not to just the basic tenet of justification by faith, but the full meaning of victorious Christian living by the work of Christ, i.e. Romans 6 and our co-crucifixion with Christ, resulting in the breaking of bondages and living in newness of life. I am saying all of this, because JS rediscovered this truth...and through it he was restored and began to understand how Christians can fall, can be bound by things of the flesh and so forth.

Watchman Nee: "The blood can wash away my sins, but it cannot wash away my old man: I need the cross to crucify me -- the sinner" (The Normal Christian Life).

J. Hudson Taylor: "Since Christ has thus dwelt in my heart by faith, how happy I have been! I am dead and buried with Christ -- ay, and risen too!" (Spiritual Secret, p.116).

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/4/14 1:54

hi,i have lived on campus at jsu for 11 years but do not attend fwc,being associated with a great church for 35yrs off and on here in br.jimmy is a far greater man since the fall and the repentance.very,very few of you know the real story and i am not telling because it is under the blood.he,much like peter sinned and like peter tasted the shame and repented.his church is grand but attendance small.his main thrust is still tv and radio.many wonderful people come from around the country to attend the church and the bible school which is taught by wonderful yet not too scholarly christian men.very few locals are impacted by the ministry relatively.clean...jimp

Paul and Mark - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/4/14 4:56

Let's look at Scripture... the first in the list of having their part in the lake of fire is "the fearful," the cowardly and the whoremongers (adulterers) are fifth!!

Travel back to the book of Acts with Paul and Barnabas. Paul felt he couldn't count on John, whose surname was Mark because Mark had become fearful and left Paul and group and went home to his mother; which led Paul to adamantly refuse to take him again in Acts 15:37-40 but Barnabas took Mark and mentored him.

Fast forward to the chapter where Paul is going to his death and oh my, look at the turn around...

"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry." 2 Tim 4:11

Isn't God good?! ONLY the Holy Ghost can take a man from causing contention among the brethren by his mere presence to **"being a man profitable for the ministry."**

I let Scripture speak itself.

Re: Paul and Mark - posted by Santana (), on: 2010/4/14 14:04

Quote:

-----Fast forward to the chapter where Paul is going to his death and oh my, look at the turn around...

I like that!

Swaggart - posted by dspks, on: 2010/4/14 20:48

2 Timothy 2:16 "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

"vain babblings" 2757 kenofonia kenophonia {ken-of-o-nee'-ah}

from a presumed compound of 2756 and 5456;; n f

AV - vain babblings 2; 2

1) empty discussion, discussion of vain and useless matters

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2010/4/14 22:13

Who's condemnation is condemning?

Who is going to throw the biggest rock?

Who is sin free? The only one I see is the Christ that is in us.

In Christ: Phillip

I died with Christ and will yet die.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with

Galatians 2:17-21 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Who is the Justifier? 1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

God is made Christ our justification, God has put us in Christ and Christ in us.

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

How many remember our brother Swaggart before his fall? How many can receive of his ministry now? Before his fall, my spirit could not agree with his spirit. Now, I see the Spirit of Christ in him and my spirit now agrees with his spirit. I see Jesus in you, because I see Jesus in me.

Phillip

Re: the cross message - posted by mkal, on: 2010/4/18 1:27

Brother Swaggart is one of the very few I have heard preaching the full message of the cross. This message has brought me out of the depths of depression and into a Spirit-filled life.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2010/4/18 4:05

This is a difficult topic. I am torn between the thought of whether a man of God would even WANT to be placed in a position of "overseer" or "bishop" after having fallen in a public manner. I imagine that a person who has truly repented of such public disgrace would probably prefer to step aside and humbly serve the Lord outside of the position of leadership.

Jimmy Swaggart fell in front of the cameras of the entire world (at least twice). There are other men, like Roberts Liardon (who admitted to having a homosexual relationship with his youth pastor), who have attempted to find a position of leadership after having rejected the "restoration" process of the organization under which he was serving. In Liardon's case, he moved to London to take a leadership role at a Bible college.

I certainly believe that God can forgive such men. I even think that such men can serve God in ministry to this fallen world. I just have to wonder, however, why such men often continue to pursue such a position of leadership. Believers are encouraged that few should want to be teachers (James 3:1). Now, I feel that the position of an "overseer" (or "bishop") is somewhat different from other positions -- given their prerequisites that differ slightly from deacons. From what I gather from I Timothy 3:1-7, the position of an overseer is much more public (which is why they need a good reputation with outsiders).

When it comes to Jimmy Swaggart, I really don't know much about his doctrinal views, methods or practices. His heyday and fall from the pulpit happened long before I came to Christ. Ironically, the only reason that I even know who he is revolves around his very public moral failures. The same is true of other disgraced ministers (like Roberts Liardon, Ted Haggart, Paul Sheppard, etc...) who are largely known to outsiders for their failures rather than what they actually preached. I have to wonder why such individuals would continue to aspire for such a position that might have partially encouraged the conceit that took the individual's eyes off of God in the first place.

Re: , on: 2010/4/18 9:12

Jimmy Swaggart is an Evangelist. Regardless of what he does in his life he must like any called man or woman of God must walk in the calling to which God put them in.

Take Dr Gene Scott. As far as I am concerned this man disgraced the name of Jesus Christ. However, his teachings are remarkably insightful, provoking and deep. Though he delivered the message, he may have ended up a castaway, as Paul said.

As for Brother Swaggart. The argument was can he be qualified to sit as an elder. When one who has been forgiven by God, would he not be counted as "Blameless"?

I remember one time a man who was delivered from homosexuality and God was moving in his life. The Pastor to which this man sat under, wanted to promote him to a higher office in the Church. The Pastor didn't know about this man's past, but when he found out about it, he was disqualified saying to the young man, "It wouldn't look good".

Now, Paul said "such were some of you". Where do we draw the line in regards to being "blameless"? In another place it says, "Blessed is the man in whom the Lord will not impute iniquity, Blessed is the man in whom his sins are covered".

Brother Swaggart's sins have certainly gone before him, yes, the whole world saw this, but God has covered his sins like he has covered mine. When you consider how people start out with the Lord, no one starts out and continues to go forward perfectly. I truly am disheartened about the lack of understanding concerning this issue. There is a legalistic mindset here that is frightfully sickening.

Because of the grace of God, we stand under a waterfall of forgiveness.

Re: , on: 2010/4/18 11:56

Chris writes.....

"This is a difficult topic. I am torn between the thought of whether a man of God would even WANT to be placed in a position of "overseer" or "bishop" after having fallen in a public manner. I imagine that a person who has truly repented of such public disgrace would probably prefer to step aside and humbly serve the Lord outside of the position of leadership." And.....

"I certainly believe that God can forgive such men. I even think that such men can serve God in ministry to this fallen world. I just have to wonder, however, why such men often continue to pursue such a position of leadership."

"I have to wonder why such individuals would continue to aspire for such a position that might have partially encouraged the conceit that took the individual's eyes off of God in the first place."

Chris, I think you have captured the essence of the Scripture that was under debate by at least some of us. In days gone by, even in the public world, when an official was disgraced, he would step down from his office for the sake of the dignity of the office. Politicians have long since gotten away from that. It used to be that was the honorable thing to do, and as we all too well know, there is not a lot of honor in the political world anymore.

What I have noticed, particularly in the American church, is the lack of balance and a lack of accountability. One is either a legalist or a proponent of, not grace, but cheap grace. Where the name of Jesus and His honor is considered above all. Men desperately seek the limelight in this age of the "personality cult." They have a desperate desire to be recognized and have the pre-eminence. Of course all of that runs counter to the Gospel where men of God only desire that the name of Jesus be elevated and that anything that takes away from Jesus, even if it were legitimate, would have to take second place. The Apostle Paul knew fine well that he had the legitimate right to be financially supported, but, if people thought that he was only preaching the Gospel for money's sake then he would gladly make tents and avoid the controversy. This is the spirit that is so lacking in today's world.

I know that it's hard for some, especially some not as mature in the faith, but there is discipline within the church and there are consequences for actions. Now the mature saint can understand that there can be forgiveness and restoration and yet there are still natural consequences. If I rob a bank tomorrow and get sentenced to 20 years, I can still find forgiveness and restoration in God, yet still have to do the time.

Chris addressed the fact that Jimmy's sins were committed long before Chris came to Christ, but he knows about them. That is exactly the point of the Scripture that some of us were debating. The original debate was about why the Scripture said what it says. Why does one, in order to qualify as an elder, have to have a good reputation with the world? There is room for this discussion without anyone being accused of being a legalizer, which, at least in the Christian world, is one of the worse things you can slander someone with. It's used as an immature way of trying to shut a reasonable discussion down and it's quite sad to see.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/18 13:56

Hi Frank,

In connection with some things you've written, I remember once asking a missionary who had seen God working powerfully amongst the people she had worked with in Ethiopia, a question. I asked why it might be that God was working in such a way in that country, while similar operations of the Spirit could scarcely be seen, in North America. Her reply surprised me at the time. "Church discipline", was the answer she gave. It's not an answer that sounds exciting or appealing, but it is in line with what took place in the early church as recorded in 1 & 2 Corinthians; the situation when a believer's sins were seen to necessitate that actions be taken (to restore him in a spirit of meekness). I think 'who does the disciplining' is a matter of discussion. However, Paul wrote as a means of helping believers understand the reasoning behind church discipline that, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump". (I'm not applying this to Jimmy Swaggart, as I don't know what's taken place in his heart, since the initial reactions he had towards church discipline).

There's a general principle promoted in the Scripture which some have described as the 'Grace and the Government of God'. For example, after Adam and Eve sinned they were cast out of the garden of Eden. (God's government) and yet at

the same time, they received Grace, as they were clothed with animal skins and also were given the promise of a future messiah who would trample Satan under his feet. For the Christian, we are told in Galatians, "whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap." We are also told that all of us will give an account for things done in the body.

To me this truth does not stand in opposition to the fact that we are forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.). However, when 1 Timothy refers to 'qualifications' for a particular office in the church, we read about areas in which Christian ministers need to have 'proven' themselves. (I realize this doesn't speak to the larger topic we've been discussing of whether one could ever minister again, after committing adultery, but it does speak to the value of a period of discipline for those ministers who have fallen).

It seems like the Bible has always meant the example of those who have fallen (and we have all fallen and do fall in various ways) to be for us to have 'godly fear', and of course to receive back with grace and humility those who like the man in Corinthians have turned back to the Lord, and received a fresh cleansing through Him.

I like how Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 11:30-33 about how judging ourselves, makes God's judgement unnecessary :

"30For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."

Praise God, for how he disciplines us in love !

Hebrews 12:4-10 sums so beautifully how 'His discipline', whether administered by God indirectly through the body of Christ or directly, is carried out, from God's heart of love and for our good :

"4In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
6because the Lord disciplines those he loves,
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

7Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Love to all in Christ,
John

Re: Equal love and discipline., on: 2010/4/18 14:01

"There is room for this discussion without anyone being accused of being a legalizer, which, at least in the Christian world, is one of the worse things you can slander someone with. Its used as an immature way of trying to shut a reasonable discussion down and its quite sad to see.....brother Frank

Absolutely Frank:...and at the heart of this issue is whether a man is permanently disqualified from ever holding the office of Shepherd again, after committing gross immorality as one. Your position is that no, there is no restoration, holding to interpretation that he would no longer be of "good reputation."

It does appear that the Assemblies of God , that Jimmy Swaggart belonged to, did not hold to that view. They assigned an allotted time of discipline for Jimmy to be restored, which required a stepping down from the pulpit. As we know, Swaggart rebelled against that counsel, and soon addressed his restoration on his own terms. He wept on TV, with his then famous; "I have sinned!" statement. I think it made the cover of Time Magazine; then the zenith of public news.

But you could say that the view you hold is somewhat legalistic without slandering you. In the end, it is your opinion, or legal interpretation of the scripture; and as I said before, It is not one that Swaggart's denomination holds.

I too, agree with Chris. "Why would some one WANT to return to this office?" People see themselves in the ministry, and it is death to them if they depart. It is manic. Phariseeism; the hold of power, prestige, and the benefits of the Pastor role.

While I do not agree with you, I might see the benefit of such a covenant. Certainly there would be more fear in the ministry than there is now, and perhaps would induce a little more holiness. I personally have hardly EVER seen true scriptural discipline in the church, much less do I remember people actually being restored.....and certainly not a priest-class Pastor.

I think we all have to begin again, as family; as brothers and sisters. I want to see this Priest-class thing destroyed, so that a holy, unprofessional, plural eldership may arise. I see this as the model that the Lord is restoring....and the terrifying thing to the professional preacher, or the wanna-be Pastor, is that this church is not pulpit centered. It springs from the daily life of the families and individuals within the community; One as important as the other.

It does not center therefore around the meeting; but from fellowship with the Lord, and then with the local community. The MEETING follows after the community. This will surely destroy the Master of ceremonies, the Pastor/Priest role, and the pulpit he feels commissioned to preside over. Then the body will edify itself by love and faith, as each part is connected.

The PASTORS then assure that the body is fed well, protected, and that Jesus as Lord is glorified in all aspects of the church they oversee.

Re: , on: 2010/4/18 14:24

Hi Brothertom, as you know, we agree on more things than we disagree. I love you as a brother and have always enjoyed the fellowship that we have had on the phone. Actually I had finished posting on this thread but I saw what appeared to be a response to Chris's comments. I found Chris's view on this to be very succinct had tapped into perhaps some of the reasons why that Scripture in 1 Tim was written for our instruction. I was more interested in people's view on that actual Scripture and what that Scripture specifically meant. Chris and I have had many disagreements on the role of Christians in society and what if any role we should have in politics, but I did feel the need to defend his right to express his view without the comment that was made directly after he had made it. Anyway, agreeing to disagree is always a good way to

end any impasse.....brother Frank

Re: , on: 2010/4/18 15:27

Hi John,

Some great points which I appreciate. The cross of Calvary is a perfect demonstration of the perfect combination of judgement and mercy. We have to be as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove.

The fact that Jimmy committed adultery is very far from the specific point that I was trying to make. I do have an example that may or not be useful. 15 years ago, I was part of a very large, good church. Numerous people were saved every week and there was such a heart to see people saved. It was a pentecostal church and every week there was "words," "given and "tongues," and "interpretation of tongues." There came a time when some harder "words," came forward. Warnings of lifestyle and so on. Leadership were uncomfortable with these "stronger," words and decided that any "word," had to be run by the elders that sat at the front. You would go down, give the "word," and then get, or not, permission to go up on the platform and share it.

As time went on, it was noticeable that only "encouraging," words were being allowed to be shared. This was an uncomfortable situation for some, but any with words of warning were considered to be "legalistic," or "Spirit quenchers." At the time there was a former child molester who had claimed that he had been gloriously saved, reconciled and changed completely by the power of God. It was now a number of years since he had had his change of life and had lived exemplary since those years before. The reason any one even knew anything about it because he was seeking the leadership's blessing on marrying a single parent in the church, the lady had a eight year old daughter. This was granted and the couple sat through several months of marriage counseling by the leadership. The couple were married.

The policy of only encouraging words being allowed continued. Less than two years after this new policy, the Pastor, a man in his early 60s, who had been in the ministry for decades, ran off with the secretary and a substantial amount of money. Turns out this had been going on for a few years and that the elders had refused to act on some things that should have been addressed. Some of the more stronger "words," it now turns out, were specifically related to what was going on.

One year after the marriage of the man who had been "completely restored," he was arrested for raping the young daughter. Now what is the point of this story. I think the point is that the church must be led by balanced men of God. The perfect balance that we see at Calvary between judgement and mercy. Can God restore and forgive a child rapist? Yes. Should that man at a later date be allowed to be in charge of children, I would say no and that this would be a natural consequence of prior behaviour. There are consequences to our actions. Some people do not believe that. Not all stories have a "Hollywood," ending. I knew a man back in Scotland who had been an alcoholic for 20 years and badly abused his family. He gloriously came to Christ and was radically changed. Yet, his family wanted nothing to do with him. Every Christmas he would go and leave presents at the door of his family's house, he was never acknowledged. He lived for 20 more years having never been reconciled to his family, yet praise Jesus he was reconciled to His Lord and that was enough. You see, despite the pain of the rejection from his family, he knew that he had brought the rejection on himself and that this was a natural consequence of his actions. He had not come to Christ so that he could be reconciled to his family, he came to Christ because he was a sinner and recognized that fact. He rejoiced in his salvation and in his Lord and his family situation was a private matter that caused much pain but he continued to serve his Lord in the situation that he was called to. Many do not want to acknowledge that there are consequences for our actions, not tied to forgiveness and reconciliation with the Lord. We are all entitled to our opinions, but in any gathering for Christians there will be a call for order and for discipline and for decisions to be made. The Scriptures guide us in these.....brother Frank

Re: The illegitimate Church?, on: 2010/4/18 18:33

"Many do not want to acknowledge that there are consequences for our actions, not tied to forgiveness and reconciliation with the Lord. We are all entitled to our opinions, but in any gathering for Christians there will be a call for order and for discipline and for decisions to be made. The Scriptures guide us in these.....brother Frank... "Appolus"

I agree. This entire thread is somewhat idealistic anyway; meaning that when and if it happens, this is where I stand.

It falls way down the tree, under fellowship and the bond of Peace in the body. We have become a church without consequences, because of the emerging doctrines of extreme grace, and the perversion of the concept of God's love.

I fall much closer to your thinking than you may believe, and I believe that you cannot have holiness without the holy fear of God that we may just come short of it. Remember Ananias and Sapphira. They were struck dead, receiving the consequences of lying to the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:10

"At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events."

Why did great fear fall upon the church? Because they realized that there were consequences for sin. Without discipline the church will become a "bastard" church, the same as we as individuals will.

Hebrews 12:7

"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

I agree with you Frank, almost to the jot;; I believe that it's the minor possibility that a ruling elder who fell; could and would repent, may find grace at some point to be restored to eldership. It is a possibility in my eyes..that's all. As far as Jimmy Swaggart goes.....A lot of it is TV land, and for the cameras anyway. Who knows? He is a celebrity, and lives in another world of Christianity than me. I wish him the best, and move on.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/4/19 1:01

hi,i repeat...you dont know the whole story.jimmy built a huge campus with many buildings and employees with electric bills over 100,000 a month most of the money coming from records and book sales...the ag did not own anything but the tithe from his income...this made the decree of the ag impossible as a ministry business action.he also has employees ... over 100 and the families to think about...if he was to survive in the ministry at all he would have to do what he did. is he biblically qualified?i leave that to God for i too am disqualified for other reasons. i live here at his ministry and know that God is moving through the media all over the earth but as i said prev. not so much here.i ate lunch today with a few students of the bible school.one from india one from brazil one from wisc one from wyo.all fine christian men being trained in the bible here...all on fire for God.i pray daily for this ministry and implore you to do likewise until the Holy Spirit says to stop.jimp

Re: the sin of adultery - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/4/19 6:58

To talk about the sin of adultery and how some people take it upon themselves to throw the first stone...

I dare say there is hardly a man out there that has been or is qualified to be a pastor.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already IN HIS HEART. Matt 5:28

If you have looked upon a woman that is not your wife to lust after her, then you are guilty of adultery period, no if's, and's or but's, according to Jesus Christ.

If you are a pastor, or here's a good one... if you are not a pastor, but you are all over the internet preaching the virtues of Jesus and guilty of what Christ said above... **what should be done with you?**

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. Lam 3:22

Re: , on: 2010/4/19 9:38

Lysa wrote and has written before.....

"To talk about the sin of adultery and how some people take it upon themselves to throw the first stone..."

I am not sure how many times it has to be said and why the point is consistently ignored, this topic is not about the sin of adultery. The topic is about this Scripture..

1Ti 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

This is the subject at hand, does a man have a good report "of them that are without." Any other topic is another subject. One may not like the Scripture above, but that is the Scripture under discussion. As for this statement

"I dare say there is hardly a man out there that has been or is qualified to be a pastor."

I find that comment very cynical. I have known personally, wonderful men of God, well qualified to be Pastors and without public scandal. Are they perfect? I think all of us agree that there is no one perfect, but to say almost all men are disqualified for ministry is, well, quite strange.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/4/19 11:38

Sadly, you missed my whole point. And I don't see it as strange to say that according to one Scripture, just about all men are disqualified, which (I think) goes well with 1 Tim 3.7; if we take them together:

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already IN HIS HEART. Matt 5:28

Just by looking at another woman to lust after her, according to the Holy Scriptures, THAT MAN has COMMITTED ADULTERY; committed is as equally as being caught in the act of adultery. By not taking this Scripture seriously, either we choose not to believe it (b/c we've not overcome it yet) or we believe that Jesus is a liar.

Let's apply this to your scripture that you keep saying everyone doesn't like.... Any man who has committed adultery according to Matt 5.28 is NOT blameless nor does he have good behavior and as well according to 1 Tim 3.7, he is NOT of a good report.

.....A bishop then must be blameless, of good behaviour, ... 1 Tim 3.2

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 1 Tim 3.7

Brother appolus, since you are the first one who responded so adamantly, I ask you honestly because this is where my whole point is...

You do not have to tell anyone but if you've committed adultery since being converted, how do you stand before men and write, preach and teach with a clear conscience all the while thinking that you are of a good report? How does any man do this with a clear conscience?

Re: , on: 2010/4/19 13:29

Hi Lysa,

With all respect, I think that you have the issues hopelessly confused. I have asked many times what do you make of the Scripture we are discussing? Do you think the Holy Spirit made a mistake when He wrote that or simply forgot about what Jesus said when he was addressing the Pharisees? Is it possible that you have been wronged by adultery and therefore say that no man is worthy of ministry in your mind?

Once again, and probably for the final time, the issue is about having a good report amongst the world, meaning not have been taken up in scandal because it hampers one's ability to share the Gospel if one has claimed to be a Christian and then became, say a drunkard? If a man is to hold the office of an elder or a deacon he cannot be known as a drunk, a lover of wine or a person greedy for money. These are qualifications Lysa whether you like it or not. Should I hold to your opinion or the Scriptures?.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/19 14:59

Hi Lysa,

It seems to me that the example of the man in 1 & 2 Corinthians who committed incest with his mother and was disciplined, sets a precedent for the practice of church discipline. Do you believe this example was intended only for the early church, or for us today as well? I agree that lust in the heart is very serious, and Paul and the Christians of the early church recognized this, however they also drew a distinction between the two, in terms of seeing a need to discipline one of the actions/sins, and not the other.

Do you have good reason to believe that those who feel that Jimmy Swaggart should have received church discipline, wanted to judge him/ cast a stone at him...rather than see him restored (personally, if not to the ministry)?

I used to love watching Jimmy Swaggart on tv, while a teenager, and was blessed by his ministry. I would love nothing better to hear him have said something like, "I am serious about this sin and since I know how it has hurt the church of Christ, I am going to take some time away from the ministry to get closer to God, and closer to my family. I'll make myself accountable to other Christians, as they help me to be restored in my walk with Christ" (Again, this may have happened after the events which transpired years ago).

On a personal level, I had a friend who seemed to be one of the most sold out Christians I have ever known. As a 17 year old young man, he spent hours on his knees before God and loved to witness Christ on the streets. When Jimmy Swaggart fell, so did he, and at this point he denies Christ and wants nothing to do with Christians. All this to say that Jimmy Swaggart's fall had a very significant impact that reverberated within the body of Christ. Does that mean that he was now beyond God's grace? Absolutely not.

But the question is, what was the most 'loving' thing for Jimmy Swaggart to experience when he sinned....for nothing to happen, or to be restored? I know that whenever I have let the tendrils of lust take root in my heart, and have given into that sin, when my heart is right with God, I have longed for a godly friend, who will come alongside me and challenge me, and pray with me, and unfold, both God's grace to me, and his power to overcome this sin. In short, I am looking for someone to help me be 'accountable' in this area. I believe that accountability is a scriptural principle, which is found in the passage in James where it says, something like, 'Confess your faults one to another and pray for one another, that you might be established'. Thankfully, I have had some friends who have done this for me. It's my hope that this will be the case, for all that fall into sin.

Does this help a bit, with understanding where I'm coming from in this? I enjoy the conversation, and believe that as Christians, we can discuss this issue in love, and would really like to, because I think it's an important issue, and one that has implications for the Revival we're longing for.

In Jesus,
John

To appolus - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/4/19 19:46

Quote:

-----With all respect, I think that you have the issues hopelessly confused.

I know you do (huge grin) and that's ok!! I am FOR restoring Jimmy Swaggart, for the record.

Quote:

-----Is it possible that you have been wronged by adultery and therefore say that no man is worthy of ministry in your mind?

That is so far away from the point I was trying to make. I am trying to point out and hopefully not in vain this time that even looking upon a woman lustfully "IS" considered "committing the act of adultery" and if you are guilty of a portion, you are guilty of the whole kit and caboodle according to Jesus! Since all are guilty, herein lays our base line!

Do you know of any men today who have NEVER looked at a woman lustfully??? That's my point! And you are guilty, appolus, as is every other man and most of the women (if they'll be honest - I will (my hand is raised)). .

So with our sin ever before us, how do we proceed from here? According to that base line, all have sinned, committed adultery and fallen short of the grace of God; some people seem to forget their adultery may not have been as a public scandal as perhaps someone else's was.

Quote:

-----Do you think the Holy Spirit made a mistake when He wrote that or simply forgot about what Jesus said when he was addressing the Pharisees?

First off and more importantly, are we talking about Matt 5.28 when you say Jesus was addressing the Pharisees? Just in case we are, in Matthew 5 verses 1 and 2 I believe set the stage for who Jesus was talking to throughout the beatitudes....

Matt 5.1 - And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them (the disciples)...

And secondly, I will always side with the Holy Spirit... even over my own opinion and you should realize that just because appolus believes and interprets the Scriptures one way doesn't necessarily mean the Holy Spirit is in agreement with appolus! Because even I know that just because Lysa believes something that that doesn't make it Scripture! (another huge grin)

Quote:

-----Once again, and probably for the final time, the issue is about having a good report amongst the world, meaning not have been taken up in scandal because it hampers one's ability to share the Gospel if one has claimed to be a Christian and then became, say a drunkard?

These are qualifications Lysa whether you like it or not. Should I hold to your opinion or the Scriptures?.....

Again, you seem to automatically include that your side is THE side of Scripture and that my side is my mere opinion.

Brother, I know exactly what 1 Tim 3.7 says but contend that it is describing external behavior while the other side to my whole argument is... what about the man that does is "of a good report of them which are without" and in the church but inside is guilty of committing adultery every week if not every day?

Ohhh, but the one who did fall and fail miserably before all while the inward adulterer gets all the accolades and the Christ

Christians won't give the repentant man the time of day. I guess, Bro Frank, you and others could take comfort in the fact that you held fast to that letter of the Law!!

Look, Lysa is only human and you should know that I am not arguing for Jimmy Swaggart per se, but for ALL who have failed miserably in front of the whole world AND repented through oceans of tears and yet still knows that the gifts and calling of God are WITHOUT REPENTANCE.

Only God knows the hearts of men and we walk by faith not by sight!

God bless you Frank!!

Re: To appolus, on: 2010/4/19 20:45

Hi Lysa....you wrote.....

"Only God knows the hearts of men and we walk by faith not by sight"

Now you are making the point Lysa. We are not called to judge men's hearts for who can know a man's heart (ie the sin of lusting after a woman) But we are called to judge the action of men and woman. For example, if you and I were in the same church and I knew you to be having an affair, then I would come to you and confront you about that. If that did not work I would take some more with me, then take it to the elders and the church. If at that point you were still unrepentant, then you would have to leave the Church.

Quote "Brother, I know exactly what 1 Tim 3.7 says but contend that it is describing external behavior while the other side to my whole argument is... what about the man that does is "of a good report of them which are without" and in the church but inside is guilty of committing adultery every week if not every day?"

Apples and oranges Lysa (British phrase for describing two different things) The external behaviour we have been called to judge, but we have not been called to judge a man's heart. And secondly, there is no call for sinlessness to be in ministry, anyone who claims to be sinless would be lying and violating 1st John and to follow your logic, there would be no one in ministry. So the man who is lusting in his heart, that man has to deal with that before the Lord, and as John says in the previous comment, perhaps have other men to be accountable to and to confess one another too, so that it is brought into the light of another brother and dealt with.

Now, the problem with scandal is that everytime a man that has been in leadership, and had been caught up in scandal, everytime he stands up the world will say, "there goes the man who sleeps with prostitutes." Or, "there goes the man who was the head of the Evangelical alliance and was caught with a homosexual lover and doing drugs." The world is not forgiving and it is the world that we have been called to share the Gospel with. For the honor of Christ and for the sake of the Gospel, that man steps down and seeks reconciliation with His Lord and his family.

Consider Moses, there was a reason that he did not enter the promised land. Consider David, there were reasons that he did not build the Temple. There was a reason that his child died. Consider Abraham and the child that he bore through his servant trying to bring God's plan to pass, that did not end well. There were consequences for all of these actions by the greatest men of God and I am sure that they bore it with dignity.

Lysa, it seems to me that you do not have a problem with what I am saying, but have a problem with reconciling what Jesus says about a man's heart and what the Holy Spirit says about qualifications to be an elder. The letter of the Law thing I will ignore :) The Spirit and the letter of the Word in this particular case is about honoring Jesus and the Gospel above all else, including our earthly ambitions and our name. When men begin to care about lifting up the name of Jesus then, and only then will men be drawn to Christ. For the last few generations, we have had the personality cult. Where men worshipped other men and it was their names that were elevated. There is a generation, I believe, of nameless men of God who only care about building the Kingdom of God, being raised.

Wigglesworth famously made this reply to the comment "your name is being mentioned all over the world." He said "then I will not be long for this world because God shares His glory with no man." How this flies in the face of televangelists and men of the last few generations. Wigglesworth died one year after making this comment.....brother Frank

Re: Been following a little bit - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/4/19 22:35

I have been returning to this discussion every now and then, and I think I have to agree with Frank to a large degree. Having been in the public eye and having fallen does not at all disqualify one to minister to others after being restored, but I don't think that person can ever regain the place they once had. Although I personally think Swaggart was probably an evangelist, and not necessarily an elder, I believe that there is a certain stigma attached to him that will limit his impact and effectiveness.

Travis

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/4/20 22:13

Yes, I have been following it a bit, here and there and after saying I will not post, have changed my mind - again.

The entire issue still seems to me to center around power and prestige. The fellow lost it and now one should restore it to him. Sounds carnal to me.

Jesus told his disciples they should function as servants, not lords. Huge difference. A servant does not strive or desire to achieve the status of lordship. A servant will go where the Lord says and will not worry about any honors that may not come his way because all the honors belong to his LORD, Jesus Christ.

Americans like their preachers to be celebs, like them to have lots of charisma and this sets these guys up for a fall, like Humpty-Dumpty.

'Nuff said. and God bless...

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/4/21 5:23

hi, your question is moot since he is on radio and soon to be on tv all over the world. he is in his 70s and is not the flambo he used to be but he is preaching the cross and redemption, salvation, sanctification through Jesus only and His finished work. when will we realize that God used an ass in the old testament and He can even use me now...do not worry about other ministries, worry about your own if your not being used of God to build the kingdom of heaven. when you stand before the thrice holy God naked and alone He will not ask you about jimmy or joel or bro. warren. it is time for the men and women of God to leave their nests of comfort and go and compel the masses to come to the table of God and repent and bow their knee to King Jesus. jimp

Re: , on: 2010/4/21 9:33

Ginnyrose writes.....

"Americans like their preachers to be celebs, like them to have lots of charisma and this sets these guys up for a fall, like Humpty-Dumpty."

I agree with this statement, and of course there is lots of money involved in these ministries that support many people. To listen to people today, one would think you could not reach the world without TV or radio. Obviously the Lord used a very few people to spread the Gospel over most of the earth long before TV or radio.

Arguably, today, we have the weakest generation of Christians in 2000 years. With all of our mass communications and showmen preachers, we have devolved into the least effective generations of Christians since Christ walked the earth.

There is a way that seems right to men. The question is, will we follow men and their ways, or will we follow the Lord and His revealed will? Anytime we get away from the Word of God, nothing good ever comes of it.....brother Frank

Re: - posted by wind_blows, on: 2010/4/21 11:39

Quote:
-----There is a way that seems right to men. The question is, will we follow men and their ways, or will we follow the Lord and His revealed will? Anytime we get away from the Word of God, nothing good ever comes of it.....brother Frank

I completely agree, been reading this thread and I agree with what you have shared here! Ginnyrose is right we do set up preachers to be celebs and we do the same with musicians too. Time for the church to see Jesus as the head and not any man:)

just my humble opinion any way:)