

## WORKS WE SUPPORT

Jim & Judy O'Connor, Foreign Evangelism  
Peter and Pooi Fun Chin, Four Seas College of Bible & Missions, Singapore  
"Seek The Old Paths"  
Chuck Northrop, Bible Institute of Missouri (Instructor)  
Billy Daugherty III, Memphis School of Preaching (Student)  
Dustin McCrickard, Bible Institute of Missouri (Student)  
Jerry Martin, Memphis School of Preaching (Instructor)  
Phillip Vanwinkle, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia  
"Whom Do You Serve?" Television Program  
"Bible Questions with Bible Answers" Television Program

## UPCOMING SERMONS

### SUNDAY AM

Oct. 14	Barnabas
Oct. 21	John the baptizer
Oct. 28	The right attitude in giving

### SUNDAY PM

Oct. 14	Study (#387)
Oct. 21	Is our best good enough? (#388)
Oct. 28	Grow in Christ (#389)

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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[www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org)  
<http://sermons.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

**To see our services live:**

<http://live.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>  
Sundays: 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m.

Services:

**Sunday**

Bible Classes: 10 a.m.  
Worship Assembly: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes: 7 p.m.

October 14, 2012

To our visitors, we want you to know that we are honored by your being with us today. We welcome any questions you may have. All materials that you see are free of charge and if there is any other information you would like, we will be happy to provide it.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Nancy Pardon, Pete Darling, Rusty Darling, Phyllis Darling, Raymond Heinz, Teresa Heinz, James Bush, Carolyn Jensen, Margaret Coats, Doug McArthur, Jean Reeder, Cheryll Akers, Kathy Briggs, Robert Van Alstine, Jo Matheny, Jim Loper, Jewel Warfield, Ed Warfield, Bill Arnold, Marilyn Smith, Bill Richard's father, Charles' mother

## **READING OF SCRIPTURE:**

**AM:** Acts 4:34-37      **PM:** 2 Tim. 2:14-16

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Oct. 21 – Potluck, Business meeting, Soldier's packages  
Oct. 28 – Singing at 5 p.m.

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## **WHAT IS MY OBLIGATION IF THE CONGREGATION DOES NOT PRACTICE DISCIPLINE?**

Charles Coats

Over the years, there has been much discussion among Christians concerning church discipline. One of the things that has been discussed is what if the congregation does not discipline a person. To many, this means that individually they do not have an obligation to discipline the person either.

Another part of this discussion is what if the person who is in error leaves the congregation. Does this eliminate my responsibility to discipline that person?

So, what does the Bible say about discipline? Is discipline that which must be done by the whole congregation, or is it something that every Christian has a responsibility to do? Must an individual Christian

withdraw from one who refuses to repent?

That the Bible teaches us to discipline those in error is beyond dispute (Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:19,20; 2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17; et al). This obligation is a command and not an option. To fail to discipline will cause us to be lost eternally.

Often, congregations will not practice discipline, especially if it involves a family member. Elders, who are obligated by God to uphold and defend His word, may not lead the congregation properly in this area by failing to practice church discipline. So, what now?

A careful study of scripture helps us to understand that the command to discipline applies to each of us individually, and not just to us collectively. In other words, each of us must practice discipline whether anyone else does so.

Consider that Paul made an individual decision concerning the man in 1 Cor. 5 (verse 3). He also made the same decision in 1 Tim. 1:20. We are all commanded to mark those who walk faithfully (Phil. 3:17) and we are commanded to mark those who walk unfaithfully (Rom. 16:17). Titus was told to reject the heretic (Tit. 3:10). In truth, all the commands to discipline are directed to each of us individually.

What is our obligation if the congregation does not practice discipline? It is the same as if the congregation does not evangelize? Individually, we must obey God even if the congregation chooses to not obey God. We are not free from our obligations because someone else refuses to fulfill theirs!

When we remain in fellowship with those who are unfaithful, in unscriptural marriages, or in any other sin in which they refuse to repent, we not only do a great disservice to them by causing them to think they are O.K., but we put our own souls at risk. Why? Think of it this way – How many commands of God can we not obey and still go to Heaven? Answers itself, doesn't it?