

Responsibility

3-22-26

James 5:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

After all the revelation from God in the book James, HE now encourages us to recognize anyone who restores others who “wander” away from the truth. Since we are not talking about salvation, I believe James is saying that if a person “wanders” away but returns to the truth that he will be forgiven and be saved from destructive life consequences, “and also” that the one who restores this wandering person will receive eternal rewards for his efforts. God will hold in high esteem, those who are concerned about the health of the church family.

Galatians 6:1 (ESV)

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should “restore” him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

The goal is to restore a person who wanders from the truth to their devotion to Jesus. The problem is that the person has taken their eyes off Jesus. **Therefore, we want to address their walk with Jesus.** The primary scheme of Satan is to have us take our eyes off Jesus. We should be concerned.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

We recognize the real battle. Deception is Satan's territory and only the mature should enter that battle. Approaching the fire others have fallen into can burn us and spread to others. It may even spread to the whole church. This is why the elders and the mature have a responsibility to address the issue hoping God will intervene.

2 Timothy 2:25–26 (ESV)

We correct our opponents with gentleness, so that, God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Godly correction may be needed for restoration. This is not only about human reasoning. Thus, God’s intervention is necessary for this misled person to come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. Interestingly, the literal word for “capture” means to take men alive. Satan is a liar and deceiver who by his influence takes men alive to do his will. This goes beyond human reasoning and must be fought in the Spirit. The issue is about the heart. Any hope of restoration has to come by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit and address a person’s relationship with Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.

Back to James 5:19-20. We have finished studying the whole book of James. Now we are mature and responsible to apply what we know to our sphere of influence.

2 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.

In the church, the Pastor, Elders, Home Group Leaders are responsible for their area of influence that has been assigned to them by God.

Note1: We have an area of influence.

Note2: Our area of influence has been assigned by God. We must have a healthy “concern” for the people around us. God takes our assignment that HE gave us very seriously. The Apostle Paul understood this.

Acts 20:26–27 (ESV)

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

We have a responsibility for our area of influence assigned by God, and we should carry it out with love and devotion restoring others to Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.