

Series: Order in the Church (12/28/16)

Title: Warning: 2 Strikes and You're out!

Text: Titus 3:10-11

Ignoring Signals:

1 out of 4 americans will be involved in lawsuit in their lifetime.

Because we are literally inundated with Lawsuits, everything has a warning label.

Even things you ought to know are dangerous.

Duraflame Logs: "Caution: Risk of Fire"

Sun shields for Cars: "Warning, Do not drive your car with Sun Shield in place"

Baby strollers: Remove infant before folding for storage."

That sounds hilarious, but how many of us ignore the "Check Engine Light" in our car?

"It's running fine"

"They will just find something wrong and charge me."

Its as if we are saying: Ignore the warning signs, hopefully it doesn't mean anything.

Life is full of warning signs and signals.

Tim Keller wrote of riding with his Brother in law that refused to wear a seat belt.

Saw his friend in the hospital after 200 stitches, saw the warnings applied in real life.

Following the warnings and directions wont guarantee the absence of accidents, trouble, or pain.

But we can minimize the damage & protect ourselves from greater danger.

Paul gave Titus several warning labels in this letter. (Titus 3:1-2) Believers who respond to authority with humility can steer clear of certain types of trouble.

(Titus 3:3) Christians who remember the where God found them avoid spiritual laziness and vanity.

(Titus 3:4-8) Christians who rejoice over God's goodness and Grace, have a tendency to treat others with goodness and grace.

(Titus 3:9) Christians who learn the Art of Refusal refrain from debating foolish things that are unprovable and unprofitable.

Paul goes on to give Titus the surprising news that churches come with a Warning Label. **2 Strikes & Your OUT!**

Calling the Strikes: (Titus 3:10-11) *A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.*

Heretic: ~ a person who holds and avows religious opinions contrary to the doctrines of Scripture.

Reject ~ Have nothing to do with.

(Rom 16:17) Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Mark ~ Same greek word we get SCOPE from.

Keep an eye on them.

They are wanting to cause dissension.

Illus: We are not going to let you teach contrary to scripture. We are going to keep an eye on whether you try to subvert the faith of others.

Strike 1: (Titus 3:10-11)

(Titus 3:10-11) A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

Paul uses 3 descriptive words to describe a heretic.

Subverted: Overthrown; overturned; entirely destroyed.

Slanted, Skewed, His perspective is the “Only” right one.

Sinneth: Missing the mark.

Condemned of himself:

Once they get called out, they are on a Vanity campaign to prove they are right.

They know its an issue.

They can't live with the possibility they might be wrong.

Proving themselves right becomes a crusade.

There is no reasoning with them.

Now its about getting others on his side, instead of sitting down and having a rational discussion.

The Origin and Nature of the Church is THE MOST DIVISIVE topic we encounter.

More people have rebelled, politicked, and left the church over this doctrine than, version of the bible, homosexuality, and tongues combined.

He knows he is politicking.

He knows he is slanting the discussion to win followers.

He doesn't care how much damage it creates.

Strike 2: (Titus 3:10) **Second Admonition** - Put to their mind.

Paul is warning Titus not to procrastinate, but to warn twice.

It is not to be a 1 sentence warning, via email or text.

Both warnings are to be extensive conversations, -

“Put to their mind”

We expose them to the error and the consequences of their divisiveness, according to the Scriptures.

That's why they only get 1 more warning after the 1st.

Because the 2nd time, they are fully aware of what they are doing. We are sure they got it on the 1st time.

On the 2nd go around, remember...

They knew what they were doing.

They knew the damage to the body of Christ they were causing.

Instead, they made up their mind to continue.
They are not going to quit.
They love the fight of it!
They love the controversy.
They thrive on having a following.

As a Pastor, I am to do everything out of Compassion, but nit at the Expense of Conviction.

Strike 3: You're OUT! "Reject" (Titus 3:10)

Pauls 's answer to divisive person is division.
It's to be a division of the heretic from the flock.

Illus: Like a surgeon removes a tumor.

Illus: Cancer is when cels go rogue and reproduce themselves

They rob the body of resources, pushing the health and function of the body aside.

Yes, division is painful, hurtful and emotional.

But the flock is to set this person aside so that they can no longer continue his unrelenting, undermining attempts to create division in the body.

There is to be NO ReAdmission until there is Repentance.

The church becomes an outward demonstration of the loss of fellowship, both on the Physical level with the church members, and on a spiritual level between the Lord and that person.

We are to pray for Restoration through repentance.

On the Bench:

The Key to understanding this is Repentance.
If we rejected, or excluded sinner, there would be no church.
We are a hospital for sinners, nit a memorial to saints.

The difference is the attitude of the heart!

Paul is talking about signing members, who have been counseled, counseled again, brought before the leadership of the church and pled with.

At this point, if he still refuses, decisive action must be taken.
(Ps 51:17) *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Protective Leadership:

Protective Leadership is me protecting a person from their own doctrinal ignorance.

Discipline and Discipleship come from the same root word.

When I confront someone, I am using the scriptures to disciple a person to more complete understanding of what the bible teaches.

I am trying to disciple them, like I would a new convert, who has preconceived ideas about the scripture, but needs to see it for themselves.

(Rom 10:17)

(Acts 18:24-28) Apollos discipled by Pricilla and Aquilla.

Also, as a Protective Leader, I am to protect the flock from the divisiveness of and unrepentant Heretic, before he affects the faith of others.

Illus: As a pastor, I am to put out the campfire before it becomes a Forest Fire.

Proactive Membership:

Church discipline has the underlining goal of Restoration. (Col 3:15-16) *admonishing one another.*

Admonish ~ to correct one who is at fault.

Same root word for ***warning.***

Paul is saying, that we are to be on the look out, be engaged in warning each other. ***WHY?***

There are a Myriad if issues that the devil will use to create division in the body of Christ.

Distract and Divide are his 2 main tactics, with Division as his favorite.

The Membership will hear of things before I will.

Illus: Teen hanging out with his friends.

See its me at the door, and they open the windows, light a candle, change the station, or RUN out the back.

As a Member, you are proactive by...

Offering the benefit of the doubt

Offering to pray with them.

Offering to come to the Pastor and discuss it together.

Offering a balanced perspective.

Back In The Game!

The Goal of Church discipline is not Punitive.

We are not looking to expel anyone who is different.

The Goal of Church Discipline is Restoration & Discipleship.

Illus: When I visited Bro. Clyde at the Hospital a few months back, he wore a bracelet that said "FALL RISK"

Whenever he stood, he was at risk of falling.

Everyone around him was to be alert that Clyde could fall at anytime.

The Truth is, that we all are at risk of Tripping, Stumbling, and falling.

(Prov 16:18) *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

(1 Cor 10:12) *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

Everyone of us can become...

Deformed in our Perspective.

Distorted in our Values.

Disobedient in our Actions.

Divisive in our Attitudes.

Depraved in our Choices.

Everyone of us can ...

Hurt our Witness.

Hinder the Joy of the Flock.

Discredit the Testimony of God.

Diminish the awareness of the Gospel to the lost.

Dishonor the Glory of God.