

An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)

Let Us Preemptively Withdraw From This Brother

Scenario:

A brother in Christ comes to the brethren and confesses that he has been habitually involved in an adulterous relationship. He says that his wife has caught him in the act. He confesses that he has very little self-control. He confesses that he wants to do what is right, but fears he cannot control his carnal desires. He says that adultery is not his only transgression, but he also has lied on numerous occasions to brethren seeking to help him. He says he has confessed this to God and has begged forgiveness. He then asks the brethren to forgive him and aid him to remain faithful.

Statement That Arises From Our Scenario:

A brother in the congregation stands up and says: "We have seen situations similar to this in the past. We have seen someone confess little self-control, lying, and other sins of lacking control twice in recent years. Both of those brethren fell away. We cannot allow this brother to be among us. We need to act now so that he cannot cause any damage to the congregation. Remember, what a little leaven does. Brethren, go read I Corinthians 5. We have to withdraw now, because we know he is not going to truly change."

A Later Statement Is Made:

This same brother, after discussions about forgiveness, states: "I just know a person like this cannot really change. I have had to repent of sin. I don't see him doing what I did. He only told us about his sins because he has been caught."

For Discussion: What do you see in those statements?