

CORE CLASS: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

28 September 2022 | *What the Church Does When Sheep Wander* | Questions: 317-798-0661

WEEK 2 REVIEW

I. Case Studies

SITUATION → ASSESSING THE SIN → ASSESSING REPENTANCE → OTHER FACTORS → DECISION

Case #3: Jill

Jill is a 21-year-old college student who grew up going to church and professed faith and was baptized as a teenager. Jill serves faithfully each Sunday morning serving as a teacher in the 4th-6th grade children's ministry class. Most everyone in the church knows Jill, and her parents both serve as Deacons. Jill is taking her college classes locally and was considering pursuing seminary after undergrad. One Sunday, Jill uncharacteristically didn't show up to serve and later that week told her Titus 2 leader that she had just found out that she was pregnant. The next day she asked to meet with some of the elders and tearfully confessed to an ungodly relationship with a non-believing classmate. She tells the elders she is still in contact with the child's father but is no longer in the relationship. She asks for forgiveness and for help as she prepares to parent her child as a single mother. She says she is nervous to come to church while pregnant and unmarried but knows she wants to stay and has a desire to keep teaching Sunday School.

Assessing the Sin: *How would you assess the sin in this situation?*

Assessing the Repentance: *How would you assess Jill's repentance?*

Other Factors: *Are there other questions/factors that need to be considered in this situation?*

Decision: *Should Jill be brought before the church for formal discipline? Should Jill be allowed to teach on Sunday morning? How should the elders shepherd the rest of the church as signs of Jill's pregnancy will soon become more evident?*

Case #4: Jack

Jack, a member of five years, has decided to divorce his wife after 15 years of marriage. Jack hit it big with a recent investment and wants to move to New York for a job opportunity, but his wife does not want to move their family of 4. When confronted about his plans for divorce, Jack said that their marriage was never healthy and over the last few years they've just existed together. He claims to have tried to pursue his wife but says she's unwilling to follow his lead. He explains that it's best for them both if they end their marriage.

Many of Jack's friends beg him not to go through with it and eventually set up a meeting with one of the elders to call Jack to repentance. When the elder mentions the potential for church discipline at the end of a lengthy conversation, Jack quickly ends the meeting without any verbal indication about what he would do. Later that week, he fills out a "Member Resignation Form" asking to be removed from membership and notes that he plans to join a local congregation in New York. The following week, Jack's wife called the church in tears letting the elders know that Jack left with all his stuff last night and left divorce papers on the counter.

Assessing the Sin: *How would you assess the sin in this situation?*

Assessing the Repentance: *How would you assess Jack's repentance?*

Other Factors: *Are there other questions/factors that need to be considered in this situation?*

Decision: *Can Jack avoid church discipline if he resigns his membership? Should Jack be excommunicated?*

II. KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 16:13-20

*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.¹⁹ **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**"²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ*