

What Do You Say Concerning Transgressions of Others?

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Introduction

Character, consistency and personal purity are prerequisites if we are to effectively help others with their trials and temptations, sins and shortcomings (Psa. 51:10-13; Matt. 7:1-5).

Relevant Admonitions

The Law of Moses offered sound advice on helping others in times of spiritual need (Lev. 19:17; Psa. 141:5; Prov. 9:7-12; 19:25; 25:12; 27:5-6).

The Gospel of Christ contains similar exhortations on helping a brother who has fallen into sin (Matt. 18:15-17; Luke 17:1-4; Gal. 6:1-5; Eph. 5:11-14; 1 Tim. 5:19-21; James 5:19-20).

Relevant Examples

King David responded positively to the rebuke of Nathan the prophet (2 Sam. 12:7-15). King Asa was unreceptive to the criticism of Hanani the Seer (1 Kings 15:8-15; 2 Chron. 16:7-10). The apostle Peter rebuked Simon the Magician, who sought to purchase the gift of God (Acts 8:9-24). The apostle Paul denounced Elymas because he sought to turn Sergius Paulus, the proconsul, away from the faith (Acts 13:4-12). Leading Apollos to a fuller understanding of the truth, Aquila and Pricilla pursued a gentler approach, taking him aside and explaining to him the way of God more accurately (Acts 18:24-28). Paul publically rebuked Peter, when he acted hypocritically and unbrotherly toward Gentile disciples (Gal. 2:11-14).

Conclusion

Cultivating the qualities of love, let us seek the highest good of our brethren – reproving, rebuking and exhorting them with patience and Biblical instruction (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 1 Pet. 4:7-11; Rev. 3:19-22).