

WITHDRAWING FELLOWSHIP

LUKE 15:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Withdrawing fellowship is one of the most challenging subjects to address. Yet the Bible emphasizes its importance.
2. The parable of the prodigal son can help us receive back the one from whom we withdrew our fellowship. (Luke 15.17-24)

I. THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

- A. Embrace: Open your arms to the one who repents.
 1. **Luke 15.20:** The father embraced his son.
 2. We receive them as God has. (Rom. 14.1,3)
- B. Empathize: Feel as they do and treat them accordingly.
 1. **Luke 15.20:** The father had compassion on his son.
 2. We are to feel for the one who has repented.
- C. Encourage: Help them feel fully restored.
 1. **Luke 15.18-20:** The son had a prepared speech.
 2. **Luke 15.21:** The father let him know he was restored.

II. ACCEPTANCE REQUIRES LOVE

- A. What did they do?
 1. **1 Peter 1.22:** *"Since you have purified your souls"*
 2. These individuals were pure in the eyes of God.
- B. How did they do it?
 1. **1 Peter 1.22:** *"obeying the truth"* (cf. John 17.17)
 2. **1 Peter 1.22:** *"through the Spirit"* (cf. Acts 2.4)
- C. Why did they do it?
 1. **1 Peter 1.22:** *"in sincere love of the brethren"*
 2. In (eis): In order to obtain. (cf. Acts 2.38)
 3. Love (Philedelphia): Friendship of the brethren.
- D. Where did they do it?
 1. **1 Peter 1.22:** *"love one another...with a pure heart"*
 2. With (ek): out. Literally, out of a pure heart.
 3. Love (agape): Always want what is best.

CONCLUSION: Withdrawing fellowship is effective when brethren see in us what they are missing.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
(702) 642-3141

AUGUST 24, 2025

WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. † North Las Vegas, NV † 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruittlc@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Northside Las Vegas Church of Christ

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

August 24, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION"

Such a request can be confusing to many of us. Why would Jesus teach His disciples to pray that God would not lead them into temptation (Matt. 6.13)? After all, we know that *"God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."* (James 1.13). If God does not tempt anyone, then why plead with Him not to lead us into temptation?

It is correct to assert that it is not God who tempts us, but Satan (Matt. 4.1; 1 Pet. 5.8). However, the only power that Satan possesses is that which is granted to him by God. It is God who limits the power of Satan by not allowing us *"to be tempted beyond what you are able"* (1 Cor. 10.13). Satan had to ask God permission before he could go out and tempt Job (Job 1.12; 2.6).

Since God allows Satan to operate, He is often given credit for what Satan does. This is similar to the owner of a company held responsible for the product produced by his employees (1 Chr. 21.12; 2 Sam. 24.1). Going back to Job, we see the destruction Satan caused. God took credit when He said to Satan, *"although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."* (Job 2.3).

Knowing that God is in control of all things, even the power of Satan, we can request that God not allow Satan to tempt us. But as with all things, God's will be done (Matt. 26.42). CLP

WHY SHOULD I REPENT?

PSALM 51:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. No matter how severe your sin, nothing compares to the sin David committed with Bathsheba.
2. Psalm 51 was written by David repenting of his sins.
3. When there is sin in my life, this psalm give me the reasons why I should repent.

I. GOD WILL FORGIVE

A. **Psalm 51.9:** *“And blot out all my iniquities.”*

1. “Blot” describes the process of wiping out describing what God did through the global flood. (Gen. 7.23; 6.5)
 2. **Psalm 51.1,2:** Three words are used to describe David’s guilt: transgression, iniquity, and sin.
- B. If I need to repent, I need to know that God will forgive me.
1. **Hebrews 8.12:** *“their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* I am no longer held accountable.
 2. **Hebrews 10.2:** *“no more consciousness of sins.”*

II. GOD WILL FASHION

A. **Psalm 51.10:** *“Create in me, a clean heart, O God.”*

1. “Create” describes a process that only God can do as He did in the beginning of creation. (Gen. 1.1)
 2. Only God can restore your spiritual heart.
- B. If I want to repent, I need to know that God will fashion me.
1. **2 Corinthians 5.17:** *“he is a new creation”*
 2. **Ephesians 4.24:** *“the new man which was created”*

III. GOD WILL FELLOWSHIP

A. **Psalm 51.11:** *“Do not cast me away from Your presence”*

1. Where is God’s presence? (Ex. 29.45)
 2. **Psalm 51.11:** *“Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”*
- B. If I need to repent, God will restore His fellowship.
1. **Hebrews 6.19,20:** Through Jesus, we can enter the very presence of God.
 2. **1 John 1.3,4:** Fellowship is only possible when we are walking in the light. (1 John 1.6,7)

CONCLUSION: God’s forgiveness, fashion, and fellowship is conditioned on my repentance.

THE PARABLE OF THE EVIL VINEDRESSERS

The parable is told of a landowner whose property consisted of a vineyard, winepress, and tower. This landowner rented out his property to vinedressers and then went on a journey (Matt. 21.33). In the process of time, he sent his servants to these vinedressers to “*receive its fruit*” (Matt. 21.34). However, these vinedressers met his servants with harsh treatment and even death (Matt. 21.35,36). The owner then sent his son surmising they would respect him (Matt. 21.37). Instead, they killed him as well (Matt. 21.38,39). This provoked wrath of the owner (Matt. 21.40).

The application of this parable is clear. The landowner is God who established His covenant with the people of Israel. As they sinned, God sent them numerous prophets to guide and restore them, but they refused to listen, treated them harshly and even killed some. Elijah lamented that *“the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”* (1 Kings 19.10)

Finally, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ. It is important to note that the parable reads like this: *“But last of all, he sent unto them his son”* (Matt. 21.37). Jesus would be the last “*prophet*” (Deut. 18.18; Acts 3.22-24) that God would send. And while God spoke in times past by the prophets He *“has in these last days spoken to us by His Son”* (Heb. 1.1,2). But like the prophets, Israel also killed Him (Acts 2.36; 7.52).

Because they killed the prophets and ultimately killed His Son, the wrath of God has been unleashed upon Israel. Jesus, Himself, laments over Jerusalem when He said, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”* (Matt. 23.37). In the very next chapter, Jesus reveals how the fall of Jerusalem would take place.

As the Son of God, Jesus knew the events that would transpire. By their own choice they tried to nullify the plan of God and crucify His Son. Yet in doing so, they unwittingly fulfilled the prophecies of those they had long ago rejected and allowed Christ to finish His work by offering Himself as a sacrifice to save the world (John 17.4; 19.30).

CLP