Withdrawing Fellowship
Romans 16:17

Introduction:

1. We have no right to draw lines of fellowship, but we are obligated to adhere to the lines that God has drawn. (3 John 11).
2. Central to the practice of withdrawing fellowship is love.

I. THE DEFINITION

A. To withdraw fellowship is to avoid.
   1. **Romans 16.17:** Who were causing divisions?
   2. Avoid (ekklino): Lit., to lean out.

B. To withdraw fellowship is to abandon.
   1. **1 Corinthians 5.1,2:** *"taken away from among you."*
   2. **1 Corinthians 5.7:** *"purge out the old leaven."*
   3. **1 Corinthians 5.13:** *"put away from yourselves"*

C. To withdraw fellowship is to mark them. (1 Thess. 3.13,14)

II. THE PURPOSE

A. Withdrawing fellowship is for destruction.
   1. **1 Corinthians 5.5:** *"the destruction of his flesh"*
   2. Destruction: Cast his way of life into perdition.

B. Withdrawing fellowship is for salvation.
   1. **1 Corinthians 5.5:** *"that his spirit may be saved"*
   2. When? At the final day of judgment. (1 Cor. 5.5)

C. Withdrawing fellowship is for protection. (1 Cor. 5.6,7)

III. THE RESULT

A. When he repents, we are to show kindness.
   1. **2 Corinthians 2.5:** *"not to be too severe"*
   2. Too severe (epibareo): To press down over.

B. When he repents, we are to show forgiveness.
   1. **2 Corinthians 2.6,7:** *"you ought to forgive him"*
   2. Forgive (charizomai): Literally, grace.
   3. Forgive no matter how severe. (Mark 11.25,26)

C. When he repent, we are to show reaffirmation. (2 Cor. 2.8)

Conclusion: Withdrawing is hard but loving.

Northside Church of Christ **August 17, 2025**
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Northside Church of Christ

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

August 17, 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

The Power of the Gospel

The book of Colossians opens with Paul expressing his thanksgiving for those in Colosse who have obeyed the gospel. In the opening verses, you read about several powerful characteristics of the gospel and the blessings it brought into their lives.

First, the gospel gave them a connection. Paul writes about their *"love for all the saints"* (Col. 1.4). Second, the gospel gave them hope. He refers to their *"hope which is laid up for you in heaven"* (Col. 1.5). Third, the gospel has reach. It is a message that *"has come to you, as it has also in all the world"* (Col. 1.6). Fourth, the gospel is productive. It is a message that is *"bringing forth fruit"* (Col. 1.6). Fifth, it is shared by others. How did they come to hear about Jesus? It was *"learned from Epaphas…a faithful minister"* (Col. 1.7).

The good news message of Jesus Christ is a powerful message that can change lives, change destinies, and change the world. God has set in place a specific method by which the gospel is spread. It must be shared by those who have received it (2 Cor. 2.14-17). And why would we share it? Understanding its power can instill in us a sense of excitement that leads us to ask, how can I not share it? (Ps. 66.16; Jer. 20.9; 1 Cor. 9.16). How effective is the gospel in your life?

CLP

Jesus: The Servant of God
Acts 3:26

Introduction:

1. Who was Jesus in the eyes of the apostles?
2. The book of Acts reflects back on the establishment of the church, but it also tells us about Jesus. (Acts 1.8)
3. Context: There was a miracle that gave Peter the opportunity to tell the crowd about Jesus. (Acts 3.1,2,8-10)

I. JESUS IS OUR HOPE

A. The guilt of sin.
   1. Delivered: Jesus was delivered to the Roman government by the Jews. (Acts 3.13; cf. Matt. 27.1,2)
   2. Denied: Jesus was denied by the Jews in the presence of Pilate. (Acts 3.13; cf. John 19.15)
   3. Death: (Acts 3.15; cf. Acts 2.23,36)

B. The hope of Jesus.
   1. **Acts 3.19:** *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out"*
   2. Blotted out (exaleiphthenai): Ek, out. Aleiph, wipe.
   3. No matter how broken my life as become due to my bad decisions, there is hope found in Jesus. (1 Tim. 1.1)

II. JESUS IS GOD'S SERVANT

A. There are four descriptive terms for Jesus.
   1. Jesus is *"the Holy One and the Just."* He always did what was right. (Acts 3.14; 1 Pet. 2.22; 2 Cor. 5.21)
   2. Jesus is the *"Prince of life."* Literally, the origin of eternal life. (Acts 3.15; Heb. 1.2; Col. 1.16; Eph. 2.1)
   3. Jesus is *"the Christ."* (Acts 3.18). The Messiah.
   4. Jesus is *"Jesus."* (Acts 3.19). The Savior. (Matt. 1.21)

B. The overarching description of Jesus is *"Servant."*
   1. All other descriptions are sandwiched by the words *"His Servant."* (Acts 3.13,26).
   2. Servant (paida): Literally, slave. (John 4.34)
   3. As His Servant, Jesus came to bless the lives of all humanity. (Acts 3.22,26)

Conclusion: When you think about all that Jesus did for you, why would you not want to repent? (Acts 3.19)

"I Can Do All Things"

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4.13). This passage is one of the most well known in all of the Bible. You will find it on t-shirts, coffee mugs, and displayed in decorative plaques on bookshelves, and wall decor. But what exactly does it mean? Is God giving us a blank check? Does this verse mean that we can ace any exam, get that promotion, or heal from a chronic illness?

If you put these verses into the context, Paul had a special relationship with the brethren in Philippi (Phil. 1.7,8). He wrote this letter to them while he was in prison and in need. In the immediate context of Philippians 4, he is expressing his appreciation for them after having received their financial aid (Phil. 4.18). If you back up into the context, he writes in verse 12 that *"I know how to abound and to suffer need"* (Phil. 4.12). And that leads to this popular expression in verse 13: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

Paul found himself in physical need. He wrote about being *"in hunger and thirst…in cold and nakedness"* (2 Cor. 11.27). He wrote about being homeless (1 Cor. 4.11). He was at a point in his life where he did not know where he was going to find his next meal. But Paul knew the secret of learning how to endure. During those times of personal need, Paul could be content (Phil. 4.11). And the strength to find contentment even in those times of extreme need was through Christ.

When we say as Paul did, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,"* it is not a statement of achievement. It is a statement of endurance. It is the ability to endure being mistreated and still showing love and patience toward them. It is the ability to endure chronic illness and still remain faithful to God even when He decides not to remove your pain. It is the ability to look at a stack of bills, open an empty pantry, and still find peace knowing that your contentment is not tied to your circumstances.

Paul's statement in Philippians 4.13 isn't a magical cure. It is the strength to face your fears, not with denial, but with faith and trust in the One who promises never to leave you nor forsake you (Heb. 13.5). The strength of Christ is not the strength to get what you want. It is the strength to handle what you get. CLP