

## CAUSES OF A LACK OF DISCERNMENT: PART 2

- I. Disappearing DISCIPLINE (1 Corinthian 5:1-13)
  - A. Positive effects of DISCIPLINE
    1. Discipline REQUIRES discernment
      - a. Motivated by concern for GOD’S HONOR
      - b. Motivated by concern for CONGREGATION’S WELFARE
      - c. Motivated by concern for OFFENDER’S RECLAMATION
    2. Discipline EXERCISES discernment
      - a. Involves WEIGHING of EVIDENCE
      - b. Requires making IMPORTANT DECISIONS
    3. Discipline PRODUCES discernment
      - a. Developed in those DISCIPLINED
      - b. Developed in those DISCIPLINING/DISCIPLING
  - B. Negative effects of LAWLESSNESS
    1. Undisciplined behavior minimizes CONCERN for TRUTH
    2. Undisciplined behavior eliminates BARRIER between the WORLD and the CHURCH
      - a. Christians engaging in WORLDLY PURSUITS (James 4:4)

- b. Unbelievers involved in CHURCH MINISTRY (Acts 5:12b-14)

## II. Denying ABSOLUTES (Matthew 6:24)

### A. Discernment distinguishes between RIGHT and WRONG—absolute TRUTH

#### 1. GOD presents antitheses

- a. Tree of KNOWLEDGE vs. Tree of LIFE (Gen. 2:17; 3:22)
- b. CLEAN vs. UNCLEAN (Hag. 2:11-14)
- c. LIGHT vs. DARKNESS (1 John 1:6-7)
- d. Way of DESTRUCTION vs. Way of LIFE (Ps. 1:1-2)
- e. Eternal LIFE vs. Eternal CONDEMNATION (Jn. 3:18)

#### 2. WORLD presents ambiguity

- a. Psychology—seeking greater “MENTAL HEALTH”
- b. Business management techniques—seeking what WORKS
- c. Politics—seeking to satisfy the MAJORITY
- d. Sociology—seeking equality of TREATMENT
- e. Education—seeking equality of OUTCOME

### B. Discernment distinguishes between GOOD and EVIL—absolute MORALITY

- 1. God says “To err is SIN”—there is no EXCUSE (Rom. 1:20; 3:10, 23)
- 2. World says, “To err is HUMAN”—it is EXCUSABLE