

Grace Unraveled
The Problem with Worldliness
2 Corinthians 1:23 – 2:11

“Worldliness is that system of values and beliefs, behaviors and expectations, in any given culture that have at their center the fallen human being and that relegate to their periphery any thought about God. Worldliness is what makes sin look normal in any age and righteousness seem odd.” – David Wells, *God in the Wasteland*

1. We are accountable for our _____
 - A. Paul did not want to cause _____
 - B. Paul did not want to cause _____
 - C. Paul did not want to cause _____
2. We are accountable for _____
 - A. Worldliness creates _____ religion
 - B. Worldliness creates _____ religion
 - C. Worldliness creates _____ religion
3. We are accountable for _____
 - A. Church discipline is _____
 - B. Church discipline _____ people
 - C. Church discipline _____ the kingdom

The gospel is a story of mercy and forgiveness being granted by God to those who repent of their sin and place their trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross. Grace provides the mechanism for believers to maintain unity as we work together to advance the kingdom. We must remember, that if we have repented and experienced mercy and grace from God, we have no choice but to extend that same mercy and grace to those who have joined us.

Reflection

When you read the story of the exchanges between Paul and the church, do you find yourself taking sides? Do you think it is possible for church members to undermine the work of the Holy Spirit in the advancement of the kingdom? Do you feel like God strategically places certain people in the church to “protect” the church from the pastor? Does the concept of church discipline make you uncomfortable? If so, why? What are some things that make church discipline in our culture so difficult?