

May 26, 2010

Dear Brothers Denny, Ray, & Jim:

I do hope you and your precious wives are doing well and growing the in grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was a good to see you men recently, officiating the celebration service for Rory. Denny, thank you for sharing me with about the level of pain Rory experienced over the last few months of her life. With that said, as you know there are a number of vital prayer needs in the HOFCC body.

Over the last month or so I have received the email announcements concerning the Paul David Tripp Conference: **Your Walk with God is a Community Project**. Thank you for sending this to me. I am familiar with the work and ministry of Paul David Tripp. I have read his book, **War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles**.

With your invitation to attend the upcoming conference, I found myself thinking curiously about it— asking myself how many books or conferences must I attend before I will be allowed by church elders to practically apply the truths I learn?

Over the course of two years attending Mt. Hood HOFCC, I believe I took with sober mindedness, resources that were encouraged and made available by your leadership. I read: **What Jesus Demands from the Word** by John Piper, **The Peace Maker** by Ken Sande, and **Humility**, by C.J. Mahaney. I also read other books, **The Handbook on Church Discipline** by Jay Adams, **War of Words** by Paul David Tripp, **The Centrality of Jesus Christ** by T. Austin-Sparks. I also listen to numerous messages such as the one I duplicated and gave you men, **Ecclesiastical Church Courts** by Joe Morecraft. I never heard back from you men on what you thought of that sermon; I was hoping to stimulate dialogue concerning that subject

With your invitation to attend the conference, I am wondering if you men truly desire for *my* family and *myself* to attend this conference? I am wondering so, because essentially my efforts to cultivate community through dialogue and hospitality between us has been noticeably ignored & rejected.

Having made that observation, would my participation in the conference have any effect to apply the truths shared, especially those that apply to the vital activity of communication? I am initially referring to communication between us.

Included with this letter is a Daily Success email I receive from Bill Gothard, because I believe it clearly conveys one the greatest needs in the church. Please read that email and my answers to **Chris Hogan's Courageous Conversation**.

At first receiving your invitation, I was not interested in attending the conference, but then after prayer, I saw an opportunity from the Lord to walk in His grace to continue to do the right thing before men. It seems right to ask you men how much you desire my attendance and to ask if there an honest commitment to have an courageous conversation with me one-on-one?

I think it would be good for my family to attend this conference...yet will attending along with your families contribute further to a false sense of having obeyed the will of God?

Keep up the good work.

Through Christ our Lord,

Barry Durmaz

Courageous Conversation

1. What is my most pressing issue?

- a. That Mt. HOFCC leadership will not engage in open and honest dialogue to concerns I expressed both orally and in writing.

2. In addition to this, is there something else?

- a. Given me counsel that is not in line with scripture and therefore called my character into question inappropriately.

3. How is this affecting me?

- a. For a while it was putting a strain on the relationship between myself and Denny and Jim Schmidt.

4. What will the future be like if nothing changes?

- a. Potentially wrong conclusions about each other will remain intact. I won't have as clear a conscience as I could without the benefit of them showing me where I have erred. A lost opportunity for embracing and obeying the gospel of reconciliation.

5. What do I see as my responsibility for this issue?

- a. My responsibility for this issue is bringing it to the elders attention in the first place, both in person and in writing—perhaps sharing too much information with them.
- b. For not prayerfully seeking out Christian brothers who are not in a position of church leadership, to go with me to solve another Christian relational breakdown.
- c. For stepping out in humble boldness—calling the elders to be accountable to their own Sunday morning preaching and teaching.

6. What do I see as your responsibility for this issue?

- a. To be available and communicate regarding my concerns—with scripture as the basis for our time together and problem solving.

7. What does the preferable future look like to me?

- a. True gospel reconciliation upon the open text of Holy Scripture.

8. What is the most powerful thing we can agree to ask God for?

- a. To solve relational breakdown problems in a redemptive manner.

9. Based on the above, what is the one thing we cannot fail to do?

- a. Be unified in the love of Christ toward one another, with the word of God defining what that looks like.

10. What practical steps must we take to make this happen?

- a. Uncover from scripture what is love and what is not love.
- b. Acknowledge the truths we find from scripture
- c. See our own sin for where we are out of alignment with scripture
- d. Repent for those areas that prevented true gospel reconciliation from taking place

A plea for the Centrality and Supremacy of Christ

Christ is my head and He is head of the Church

I am only after justice.....says Denny Garvey

Call it what you want.....Denying biblical reasoning to arrive at correct conclusions

You cannot make a brother come to the table.....denies the truth in James 5:19-20.

Scripture commands to see first His kingdom and His righteousness (justice)

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable than sacrifice.

The Law is just. Romans 7:12

The just live by faith. Romans 1:17

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” II Timothy 3:12-13

The joy of the Lord comes from the deeper truths from God’s word as a result of seeking him during times of persecution.

“Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” I John 2:10-11

Where is the ministry of **reconciliation** towards myself?

The head of Barry Durmaz is Jesus Christ not an elder, not the church, but Christ alone, by God’s word alone am I to reform my life in pleasing service to God. I am to be **submissive** to elder authority and come under its **protection** according to scripture, but there is no command in all of scripture to come under the command or domination of an

elder. Any and all such commands of an elder must be in accordance with commands as reveal in word of God. A faithful elder will lead a fellow Christian to come under the domination and Lordship of Jesus Christ, if we are truly slaves of Christ.

The counsels and word of men bring me into condemnation and bondage. Only the counsel of men in accordance to the word of God bring me liberty under law, the perfect law of liberty, who is Christ. Christ is grace and truth and in Him there is not variance or shadow of changing. His grace and truth are binding upon me as His disciple.

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and do your way. First be reconciled to your brother.....” Matthew 5:23-24

Why haven't I been shown where I am wrong. Rather, leadership has cut off communication, rather than demonstrating where I am in error. That is a form of condemnation because you have not held out gospel hope of repentance and change, but more like the worldly way of communication of cutting people off when you don't like what you hear. No interest in understanding my heart-felt concern towards you.

The corruption in the world is in the church and more accurately among church leaders. Men and women in the marketplace don't return phone calls because Church leaders don't return phone calls.