

FROM THE DESK OF

BARRY H. DURMAZ

January 14, 2011

Dear Pastors & Elders of Good Shepherd Community Church:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am writing to bring a matter of great import to your attention, which concerns your leadership role at Good Shepherd Community Church, and what role the word of God will have in solving relational problems between Christian brothers.

This month marks **three full years** over which I have endeavored to solve a relational breakdown with a member of your congregation, Mr. Ken Myers. I will not go into detail about that sin problem here, for I have made repeated attempts in person, by phone and written correspondence to Mr. Ken Myers himself, Mr. Dan Franklin, Mr. Bob Dorsey and Mr. Jim Dawson.

The head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ, instructs believers that when a brother sins against you, go to him and be reconciled. Mr. Ken Myers initially met with me twice, but once I began to present the evidence to my assertions of his grossly unethical behavior toward me *and another* gentleman in the marketplace, he there forward refused to meet with me for the purpose of Christ-honoring resolution. The last meeting (August 2008) with him was in Bob Dorsey's office, where Mr. Ken Myers rose up in indignation and called for a meeting with the pastors—to which I gladly agreed, for the assistance of pastoral care in peacemaking and reconciliatory measures. That meeting never took place, and in fact has been resisted by Misters Franklin, Dorsey and Dawson, as well as Misters Denny Garvey and James Schmitt, elders of Mt. Hood Household of Faith Community Church. Of whom, I have been in prayer for the last three years and will continue to do so until there is open repentance.

In light of the resistance of the aforementioned to facilitate the clear, Biblical method of resolving relational breakdown, I am **elevating** awareness of this problem between Mr. Ken Myers and myself to the next level—the entire body of church leadership at Good Shepherd and Gresham Household of Faith Community Church per **Matthew 4:4, 7 and 10; Deuteronomy 4:2, 8:3; Proverbs 30:6; Luke 24:27, 44-45; John 5:39; Romans 15:4; 2 Corinthians 10:6, 7 and 11; Timothy 3:1-7; 16-17; 2 Peter 3:16; Revelation 22:19**. Hence, you've received this appeal. You are free to inquire from these gentlemen about the nature of this problem, and why they have *refused* Ken Myers and myself the second step in biblical peacemaking. You also may phone me, if you are so inclined.

As you inquire of those mentioned above, you're likely to be told that I refuse to accept Dan Franklin's and Bob Dorsey's decision that I do not have a legitimate case to make. Of their *own* authority they initiated "an investigation," and have concluded that what they have been told by third-parties friendly to Mr. Myers, is accurate, and therefore I must be inaccurate. This investigation by Dan Franklin and Bob Dorsey has *no scriptural authority* for determining the veracity of my complaint; and, furthermore, I was not permitted to answer any complaints or charges brought against me. The biblical method for conflict resolution is for the two brothers to dialogue in the presence of two impartial witnesses to the conversation—**that has never taken place**. I am attempting to follow the model laid out by Christ in Matthew 18:15-20 & Galatians 6:1-2, but have been essentially castigated by the men I referred to; and yet, to whatever degree that I may be in sin and error, your under-shepherds refuse to bear on my heart and conscience where I have violated the word of God. About the errant process that has been delivered to me, I am reminded of how God deals with unrepentant sin in His children. As Christ declared in John's gospel, chapter 3, verses 19-21:

"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness π rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Rather than receive the ministry of reconciliation by the hands of the men who have disqualified themselves—men who for convenience or any reason of unwillingness refuse to permit the righteous process to proceed and thereby condemn the one wronged and deliver not reconciliation but its antithesis, no hope—I have proposed the mediating involvement in this matter by a called, qualified, practiced, professional advocate of truth and objective peacemaker not personally connected to either party, Mr. Cliff Scott, attorney and local representative of Peacemaker Ministries. What I have endeavored to resolve for three years, I no longer have confidence that the men in question are biblically qualified to mediate (since I Timothy 3:1-7 delineates that unless a “....*man knows how to rule his own house well,...how will he take care of the church of God?*”). Mr. Cliff is and has been available to facilitate the peacemaking process, but Mr. Ken Myers refuses to make himself available, encouraged by those he respects at Good Shepherd Community Church who have chosen not to demonstrate his obligation to be above reproach, according to the scripture mentioned.

The enclosed brochure is a token of my commitment to pursue biblical peacemaking principles to solve this problem between Ken Myers and myself. Until the *biblical* method of conflict resolution is exercised, God will not allow this problem to simply dissipate, as though it did not exist and as if it did not dishonor Christ. A grave sin problem *does* exist, and the purity of the gospel of Christ at Good Shepherd is at stake as well, and the general strength and unity of the body of Christ in our local area. As you receive this letter, consider my three years’ patiently working towards biblical peacemaking. I believe, therein, it is quite reasonable to afford you **30 days** (February 14th) to discuss this among your church leaders; to arrive at the scriptural conclusion of helping our dear brother, Ken Myers, to see that as a Christian he has a moral and ethical duty to be accountable for his actions in the marketplace; and to insist that in remaining a member in good standing, Ken Myers comes forward with me to see Scott Cliff for a one day session, which will cost each of us approximately \$800 to walk through the peacemaking process. Isn’t this sad, that brethren in Christ have to pay for that which should simply be a vibrant ministry of the local church—the message of reconciliation?

I am available to you to answer questions, but I will reserve the essence of what I have to present in the presence of a neutral peacemaking minister, Mr. Scott Cliff. Please have him contact me with a meeting date that works for he and Ken Myers. He also is in receipt of this correspondence, as well as my elders and deacons at Gresham Household of Faith Community Church.

Thank you for your time. I anticipate a God-honoring reply.

Yours in the unity of Christ Alone,

Barry Durmaz
Private Contractor

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