

- The complete Christian isn't a 'stand alone Christian'
- Fellowship is integral to Christianity
- Jesus died to forgive us and to bring us into his family
- Satan's ploy is to isolate us

### 1. **When you are sick, remember you are part of Christ's family**

- Person unable to get to church – elders come to them.
- They represent the church to the person
- 1 Cor 12:26 – "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it"
- Matt 25:16 – "I was sick and you looked after me"

### 2. **When you are sinning, remember you are part of Christ's family**

- v16 – Not confessing to a priest. Not confessing to people in general.
- Not admitting struggles to one or two, although a useful practice – they don't forgive.
- Meaning – confessing to fellow Christians we have sinned against
- We are not to gloss over, or hope they forget. Sin is to be dealt with.
- How do we need to confess to?
  - Sins against God only – confess to God
  - Sins against God and people – confess first to God
    - Sins only God knows, eg resentment at a person – confess to God
    - Sins the person knows, eg harsh words – confess to them also
    - Sins a wider group knows, eg vented your anger – confess to affected parties eg in court for speeding – confess to affected parties, eg church
- What next?
  - Forgiveness from the offended person.
  - Prayer for each other to restore family relationships
  - Be aware that forgiveness can be instant, but restoration can take time

### 3. **When you see a Christian sinning, remember you are part of Christ's family**

- v19-20 – Not a mandate for busybodies but a care charter for Christ's family
- a) **The Problems**
  - Not the daily slips in sinfulness, but prolonged errors in either truth "wander from the truth" or godliness "the error of his ways"
  - Backsliding is such an easy thing. See 1 Tim 1:20, 2 Tim 2:18,
- b) **The Person**
  - Who speaks? "someone" – not necessarily the elders
  - You go – and don't broadcast it!

### c) **The Procedure**

- Pray for them. Spend time with them. Be gentle (Gal 6:1). Speak about the issue. Stay with them.
- Do to them what Jesus has done for you – see parable of the lost sheep Luke 15

### d) **The Privilege**

- "...will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins." – Surely this is Jesus' work?
- Jesus uses us to do his work – the privilege of being in his family
- Remember what your older brother did for you, and how he doesn't leave you to wander.
- Love him and love his family and watch out for the people he shed his blood for.