

Pacific Coast Church
June 9, 1996
First John 5:16-17
Pastor Mike

96-22

He Sinned!

What To Do When Someone at Church Sins

1 John 5:16-17 -----> 16) If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. 17) All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. (NIV)

1. Make An Important Distinction

A. _____

B. _____

2. Understand What is At Stake

A. *Sin in the Church* _____

B. *Sin in the Church* _____

C. *Sin in the Church* _____

D. *Sin in the Church* _____

3. Pray Hard

A. *It Is The Only* _____

B. *It* _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided to further your application of Sunday's message and to prepare you for PCC's small group discussions.

**For information on small groups that are meeting throughout the summer please call Matt Banks @ 714-492-3608.*

1. Throughout the book of First John God has been revealing to us the distinction between real Christians and those who claim to be Christians but actually are not. Take note of the following passages that we have already studied in First John (1:6; 2:4; 2:9; 2:18-19; 2:22; 3:6; 3:9-10; 3:15). It is obvious that there are many people who are Christians in "name only"—even people who regularly attend church. Though it may be uncomfortable for some Christians to make this distinction, it is one that God expects us to make so that we will know whether or not this instruction from First John 5:16-17 applies or not. Before we consider the instruction, what do you think would be an appropriate and biblical response to someone who sins who is a Christian in name only?
2. Though most Christians like to do their sinning in secret, it is not uncommon for us to have a Christian's sin come to our attention through some avenue of exposure. Remembering that verse 17 states that "all wrongdoing is sin" it is important that we do not simply take note of the "big sins". With that in mind, what kind of sins that Christians commit are common for you to be exposed to? Or another way to think this one through is to consider what sins you have been "seen" committing?
3. What is your usual reaction when you see another Christian sin?
4. What are some reasons that you have used for "ignoring" another Christian's sin?

Why are these inadequate excuses?

5. Sin in the church has always been taken seriously by God. Read Acts 5:1-11. What is your response to this bit of early church history? What do you think God was trying to communicate to His church through this event?

Read Hebrews 12:4-11. How does this passage make you feel?

Now read Hebrews 12:12. What should be the response of Christians in the church in light of that information?

6. Prayer is said to be the key when we see another Christian sin. Considering the larger context (beginning in First John 5:14) why is that logically the case?

God promises to answer this prayer for the real Christian who sins. How does First John 3:9 reaffirm that He will?

7. Though God promises to answer, He may use us as a part of the solution. Read Luke 17:3. How do you feel about moving from just praying to this?

It may be difficult but it is right, and if it is right then it is best. In what way do you see this being "best" for the local church?

Have you experienced a positive resolution when you have been a part of God's answer to another Christian's sin?