



LIVING AS A
CHURCH

Discontentment



Syllabus:


This is a 13 week program, put together by Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC. It has been adapted for our use at Cornerstone. Topics:

1. Unity
2. Membership
3. **Diversity**
4. Preaching and prayer
5. Governance
6. Church Fellowship
7. **Discontentment within the church**
8. Church leadership
9. Church Discipline
10. Encouragement
11. Serving and Giving
12. Corporate Worship
13. Evangelism



Class Materials:

- Bible
- Notebook and pen
- Handouts (provided)
- ***Enthusiasm (any size will do fine)***



Why are we doing this curriculum at SOHOP?

- At CC, we believe in Biblical Covenant Membership.
 - Attain a better understanding on what it means to be a local church member and the church of Jesus Christ.
- Reminder:
- Identity as the body
 - Our responsibility
 - Our commitment



I. **Introduction**

Questions to ponder:

- What are some ways that our response to discontentment can harm unity in the church?
- How can a good response to disappointment strengthen the church?



I. Introduction - Purpose

To consider how we can protect and promote unity when we encounter discontentment in the church



I. Introduction - Scope

- Responding to discontentment that stems from *non-sinful* actions of others in our church.
- Focusing on discontentment *in general*



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

What is 'discontentment'?

**A longing for something better than the
present situation.**



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

Three ways in which discontentment, if not properly handled, can harm the witness of the church:



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

1. Discontentment can lead to complaining and grumbling

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

- Philippians 2:14-15



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

1. Discontentment can lead to complaining and grumbling

“Do not complain, brothers and sisters, against one another, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”

- James 5:9



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

1. Discontentment can lead to complaining and grumbling...the result:

2.

We harm the church's witness

1.



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

2. Discontentment can lead to discord:

“unhappiness” leads to rallying support leads to factions leads to dissension.

Read Paul’s inspired thoughts: Gal 5:19-21



II. Bitter Fruit from Poor Responses to Discontentment

3. Discontentment Distracts from What Really Matters:

“So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Ephesians 5:15-17



III. Addressing Discontentment

KEY CONSIDERATION:



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KEY CONSIDERATION:

Understand how the gospel of God's Grace
transforms the way we respond to
discontentment



III. Addressing Discontentment

*“...for I have learned to be content in
whatever circumstances I am.”*

Philippians 4:11b



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

A. Pray for God's Mercy

B.

“I will raise my eyes to the mountains; From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth..”

Psalm 121:1-2



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

B. Examine Your Desires; Confess and Repent of those that are sinful

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is the source not your pleasures that wage war in your body’s parts? You lust and do not have, so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.”

James 4:1-2a



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

C. See Other Believers the Way God Does

- We should strive to see the church and everyone in it the way God does



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

C. See Other Believers the Way God Does

- We should strive to see the church and everyone in it the way God does
 - First: Pray for others and love them in concrete ways
 -

III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

C. See Other Believers the Way God Does

- We should strive to see the church and everyone in it the way God does
 - Second: Consider how God values others
“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves”

Philippians 2:3

III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

C. See Other Believers the Way God Does

- We should strive to see the church and everyone in it the way God does
 - Second: Consider how God values others

ALL brothers and sisters are of equal value in God's eyes. They are Christ's possession; He has bought them with His blood. They are precious in God's sight.



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

D. Speak Truth... In Love

- Follow the previous 3 steps before talking to someone about your discontentment



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

D. Speak Truth... In Love

- Follow the previous 3 steps before talking to someone about your discontentment
 - PRAYER
 - EXAMINE YOUR OWN DESIRES
 - SEE OTHERS AS GOD SEES THEM



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

D. Speak Truth... In Love

- Let your words be **constructive**, designed to **build up**



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

D. Speak Truth... In Love

- Recognize your responsibility as a church member



III. Addressing Discontentment

Four Guidelines for Addressing Discontentment:

D. Speak Truth... In Love

- Speak publicly against a proposed decision only when an issue is *both* clear in the Bible *and* important



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

Three Common situations in the church that can cause discontent...



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

1. “The church isn’t meeting my needs”

The ultimate purpose of the church **IS NOT** your or my personal fulfillment...



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

1. “The church isn’t meeting my needs”

The ultimate purpose of the church **IS NOT**
your or my personal fulfillment...

It is God’s Glory



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

1. “The church isn’t meeting my needs”

True Joy comes from
serving others



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

- 2. “The church has disappointed my expectations for fellowship and growth”**



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

2. **“The church has disappointed my expectations for fellowship and growth”**
 - Pray, examine your heart, ask the hard questions



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

2. **“The church has disappointed my expectations for fellowship and growth”**
 - Pray, examine your heart, ask the hard questions
 - Receive God’s blessings even if they are different than your expectations



IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

2. **“The church has disappointed my expectations for fellowship and growth”**
 - Pray, examine your heart, ask the hard questions
 - Receive God’s blessings even if they are different than your expectations
 - Only leave a church after much prayer and seeking of counsel
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IV. Specific Areas of Discontent

3. “I have a hard time liking this certain church member”

- Pray for those that you dislike and for God to change your heart
- Realize God’s love for those who are hard to like



V. Conclusion

1. Trust God, not circumstances
2. He is Sovereign over all
3. His Goodness **always** prevails
4. In Him alone do we find the true joy of contentment
- 5.