

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

When We're Together  
4: Protect, Correct, and  
Care

### Speaker:

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### Scriptures:

Various

**Theme:** Fear the LORD and love one another enough to pursue others' holiness for the good of the local church.

**Introduction:** Fear and love go hand in hand, as our fears often reveal what we love the most. In our pursuit of holiness, whether individually or corporate, we must fear the Lord above everyone. We must recognize that he commands us to engage with one another about our sins (Matt 5:23-34; 18:15) and we must be more concerned about his glory than with any glory the world has to offer (John 12:42-43). In that way, we can actually love others in how we protect, correct, and care for one another.

Here are 3, not-so-easy steps to pursuing corporate holiness:

#### 1. Fear the LORD

There is a direct connection between how we view the Lord and our fear or anxiety in this life. The less we fear God, the more other fears arise and grow.

However, when we fear the Lord we find the strength and grace that come through him (e.g., Prov 1:7; 8:7; 14:26-27; 19:23). We are also transformed so that we are more concerned about his glory than anything the world has to offer.

Biblical hope is a fixed confidence in God's future goodness based upon his immutable character.

"The fear of the Lord is the only fear that *imparts* strength" (Reeves).

#### 2. Resist false compassion

As we fellowship with one another, we will have opportunity to overlook minor offenses out of love for others (Prov 19:11).

However, we should also recognize our responsibility to correct or confront others in their sins, as per Gal 6:1-2.

False compassion would keep us from engaging others in their sin; but true compassion is courageous and is committed to the Lord's glory and others' good.

#### 3. Lovingly engage

We must be vigilant in our fight for corporate holiness because we have an enemy who is out to seek our destruction (1 Pet 5:8).

We must also recognize the role of elders in protecting God's church from false teachers and corrupt living (Heb 13:17).

But the responsibility to pursue corporate holiness extends to the whole church. We are all called to love and engage one another for our mutual growth in holiness.

#### Questions:

1. Do you fear the Lord? Whose glory and approval do you value the most? How would you like to grow in the fear of the Lord?

2. Do you tend to operate in true, or false, compassion? How would you like to grow in loving others enough to confront/correct them gently and for their good?

3. Do you have unresolved conflict with anyone in the church? How does the Lord call you to pursue reconciliation?