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To the Elders and Parishioners of Grace Partner Churches,

This letter is an exhortation to Grace Partner Churches in regard to the following:

1. To stand for the truth you profess to love.
2. To show God's heart in regard to what is just.
3. To send this message to those who fellowship with the like-minded; it is a biblical privilege extended to those who behave properly.
4. To expend collective wisdom for the purpose of truthful reconciliation to the Glory of God.

Regardless of what anybody wants to believe, recent actions against me by the Clearcreek Chapel Elders are outrageous and deplorable. The facts are irrefutable, and I am determined to hold them accountable. I am not impressed with immunity via self-proclaimed autonomy, and I doubt God is either. I believe God was way ahead of that angle. Other than authority, Scripture points to the principle of fellowship among all believers in corrective processes. The Clearcreek Elders themselves recognize this. They have stated in writing that they will contact any Church I attempt to join, even though they have no authority over that congregation. I might mention the following: this is a commitment they have not executed for reasons that seem obvious to those involved. Regardless, I encourage them to do so at their earliest convenience. However, the leadership at my present Church will expect an explanation of specifics and objective facts, an ability seemingly not possessed by the Clearcreek Elders and certainly not expected by their followers.

I will not let this go. I walked away quietly from an unjust Church discipline, sought sound marriage counsel, and tended to my own business. But that wasn't good enough. Very well, it is no longer good enough for me as well. But there is also this, I am extremely confident that there are leaders in the Grace Fellowship of Churches that could quickly reverse the direction of this situation. I am pleading with you to offer the ability God has given you accordingly. I am already striving, with God's help, to work on my own heart. But in the process, I will not passively stand by while my wife executes an unbiblical divorce with the blessings and encouragement of the Clearcreek Elders. My authority is Scripture, not the unctions of the Clearcreek Elders. My wife may succeed in finalizing the divorce, But at the end of it all, I will know that I did everything I could to prevent it.

What is going on is scriptural or it isn't scriptural, and that either matters to you, or it doesn't matter to you. Comfortable fellowship is either more important than the integrity of those whom you fellowship with, or it isn't. The Jewish proverb that says, "He who saves one life, saves the world", simply means this: if you don't care enough to save one life, you don't care about the world either. In the same way, if you don't care enough to save one marriage, you don't care about any marriage, your just fooling yourself. My attorney is filing for court ordered marriage counseling which is a set provision in Ohio law. Why not a Pastor from Grace Fellowship that Shirley would respect? The Clearcreek Elders should welcome this. This is a great opportunity for any of you to examine me firsthand, thus vindicating them in the matter. My phone number is 260.417.4716. It is my deepest prayer that God will use one of you to bring this matter to a peaceful, God honoring resolution.

Paul M. Dohse

