



To the pastors and elders of Pleasant View Bible Church
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From TANC Ministries and associates
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Written on behalf of TANC Ministries by Paul Dohse, August 14, 2016:

We have been approached by Tim Smith in regard to the present ongoing issues between himself and the leadership at Pleasant View Bible Church. Tim was referred to us by a discernment ministry.

We have decided to join with Tim, per his request, in the Matthew 18:15-20 process for resolving conflict among professing Christians. We reject any notion that the Matthew 18 process is some sort of exclusive tool of the elders for implementing their supposed authority over God's people. In fact, there is no mention of elders in Matthew 18, and we also reject the notion that "church" in said passage means, "elders."

In addition, we question the notion that elders have authority over the marriage contract between a husband and wife, and it is our understanding that civil law prohibits such interference in most states. Biblically, the authority structure in a home is clearly defined in Ephesians 5:22-33; the head of EVERY man is Christ (1 Cor 11:3) and the man is head over the wife AS Christ is head over the church. Like in Matthew 18, the elders are conspicuously absent and all but deliberately excluded.

During the course of marriage counseling under your auspices, Tim's wife was instructed to read "The Emotionally Destructive Marriage" written by Leslie Vernick. Our evaluation of this book reveals the fact that it can be used to label ANY husband as abusive, and has become the go-to book for that purpose in the biblical counseling movement. Another troublesome trend we hear about is wives who look down on their husbands for "not respecting the authority of the elders" when God calls them to see to it that they respect their *own* husbands instead (Ephesians 5:33).

Hence, we have advised Tim to contact an attorney in regard to your interference in his marriage accordingly. When Tim requested marriage counseling, he by no means anticipated your malpractice. In addition, the public disfellowshipping of Tim and not his wife sends a clear message to the congregation that Tim is primarily at fault when an elder at your church has clearly stated otherwise to this ministry and that statement is documented.

While your elders bemoan the number of years this couple has been in counseling while assuming no responsibility whatsoever for the ill results, you threaten to humiliate Tim publicly because you subjectively conclude that his wife has the lesser fault. We find this logic suspect at best.

Moreover, there is yet another core issue. Central to your counseling is the teachings of Paul David Tripp and the "idols of the heart" construct that promotes the idea that Christians remain unregenerate, unchanged, enemies of God, and dead in trespasses and sins.

Therefore, salvation is progressed by returning to the same gospel that saved us resulting in an increased seeing of God's grace without any increase of righteousness possessed by the "believer" as a state of being. We are convinced that this is what has been confusing Tim and circumventing a desired outcome.

This brings us to our conclusion. We insist that you confess your sins to Tim and be reconciled to him. We are also convinced that the congregation is not privy to what your pastor really believes about soteriology. We believe Pleasant View is part of an epidemic where Neo-Calvinist pastors are spoon feeding progressive justification to the congregation in small increments flavored with familiar terminology that has been redefined.

Again, we believe this has led to Tim's confusion and the present state of the issue. You bear responsibility, and should repent as a godly example to the congregation.

Paul M. Dohse
8/14/2016