



# GATHERED

*The Empowered Presence of God's People*

## **STUDENT GUIDE**

### **SESSION SEVEN: The Safeguard of the Church**

*A Study on the Church by*



**SMYRNAFIRST**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



## *Session Seven*

# The Safeguard of the Church

When Jesus says he will build his church, he has no intention of anyone tearing it down from the outside. But he also protects her from internal threats as well. Sadly, many in the church have never experienced the loving, Christ-honoring expression of church discipline, so it is necessary to reclaim this purifying doctrine.

Take a few days this week to sit down with your Bible and a pen so that you can read and study God's Word in a personal way so that you can live it out in the community of saints to which he has given you.

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### **DAY 1**

Read Galatians 6:1. Rewrite the verse in your own words.

To whom is the verse addressed? Why is that important? Who is the person described as "you who are spiritual"? Why do you think Paul describes them in this way?

What do the words "sin" and "restore" teach us about the relationship of someone in the church who sins? What does Paul mean by "if anyone is caught in any transgression"?

What does "a spirit of gentleness" imply about how we should treat church members that sin?

### **DAY 2**

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-11. Describe the problem the Thessalonian church was facing among her members. What sin were they committing? What false belief allowed them to act this way? What is their underlying motive of the heart?



What is the prescribed action in verses 14 and 15 to be taken by the church against such members? Write down three specific actions.

What is this action supposed to create for the offending member (see vs. 14)?  
How so people in today's church think about treating someone this way?  
What does today's culture say about treating someone this way?

The phrase "have nothing to do with him" is used. How does the church obey this command? What do you think obedience to this command looks like, especially in light of what verse 15 tells us to do?

## **DAY 3**

Read Matthew 18:15-20. On a sheet of paper write the steps Jesus says the church should take if someone sins. Number the steps, describe what should be done during that step, and name the parties involved in each step.

How well do you think the church today tells each other their faults? How regularly do you speak with someone that has harmed you? How regularly has someone else spoken to you about how you have harmed them? How regularly do you hear others speak about how they've been treated by other members of the church?

Describe what you think the Bible means by "If he listens to you" in verse 15 and "if he does not listen" in verse 16. What is happening in the heart of the offending church member?

What does it mean to "tell it to the church" in verse 17? How can the church treat someone like a "Gentile and a tax collector"? Read verse 19 again. What is this verse saying within the immediate context?



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#### Introduction

I. What's Love Got to Do with It?

II. Restore Such a One

III. One Step at a Time

#### Conclusion