



December 8, 2008

Ms. Rebecca Hancock
4518 Singletary Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32257

Dear Rebecca,

We find great difficulty in writing this letter to you. The relationship that God has permitted us to experience together spans the distance between deep joys and intense trials. But, this present situation really tests the quality of our love. Above all else, our desire is that you will sense the love that motivates this letter. Our love for you compels us to pursue that which is best for you.

It has been brought to the attention of the elders and confirmed by you that you are involved in a sexually immoral relationship with a man who is not your husband. God gave sex as a gift to be enjoyed only by a man and a woman within a marriage relationship. The Bible states clearly that a follower of Jesus Christ is not to participate in any type of sexually immoral relationship (Ephesians 5:3-7), equating it with idolatry (Colossians 3:5-7) and describing it as a sin against God, your body, and the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:9-20). Participating in such behavior is a sin, which directly violates the expressed will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3). All such behavior is to be repented of and can be forgiven by God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Since 2007, you have been an active member of Grace Community Church. The standard for life and godliness has always been God's Word, the Bible. As you know, it is our responsibility as elders and shepherds of God's flock that we be neither speculators who invent new doctrines which please us, nor editors who excise old doctrines which displease us. But we are called to be stewards, God's stewards, dispensing faithfully to God's household the truths committed to us in the Scriptures, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else. Any Christian, who refuses to submit to the sound words of the Bible, the teachings that accord with godliness, displays an insubordinate heart, which is puffed-up with conceit. The elders have attempted to contact you for a meeting to further explain and resolve this issue. Unfortunately, you have refused our efforts.

Therefore, you leave us with no other choice but to carry out the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are divinely designed to lead a sinning brother or sister to repentance and restoration (Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1). In a spirit of love, gentleness, patience, fairness, and without hypocrisy, certain members of Grace Community Church have carried out the first two steps of the discipline process by reproving you in private (Matthew 18:15) and reproving you in the presence of witnesses (Matthew 18:16).

However, you have refused to listen to them. Your refusal to repent and be restored in your relationship to God and His church leaves us with no other alternative than to carry out the third step of the discipline process. In accordance with Matthew 18:17 we intend to "tell it to the church." Unless you repent of this sin and agree to meet with the elders regarding this issue, this third step will be carried out publicly on Sunday, January 4th, 2008. In order to avoid this, you may contact us through the church office, 904-268-8854.

We sincerely hope you will receive this in the spirit of love in which it is intended. Our prayer is that you would repent of your sin, return to God soon, and permit Him to help you in this area. May God keep you and guide you.

Sincerely in the love of Christ,

The Elders of Grace Community Church