

\_\_\_\_\_ had to tell the church folks in Corinth to not participate in sexually immoral acts that were WORSE than the Gentile unbelievers including accepting someone who was openly sleeping with his stepmother.

\_\_\_\_\_ had to openly push back on false teachers who tried to convince other church folks of unscriptural beliefs.

\_\_\_\_\_ had to correct Christians in 5 different provinces who were going back to living in their sinful ways, disrespecting their spiritual leaders, and acting in vengeance toward others, just to name a few.

\_\_\_\_\_ even expressed displeasure to an entire city of Believers in the book of Revelation. He sternly rebuked them because they were compromising their faith, choosing immoral lifestyles, and were focused on money.

The church is not a gathering for perfect people to remember how bad they used to be.

Church a gathering of believers who draw closer to Jesus through the teaching of God's word, Godly relationships, Biblical encouragement, honest prayer, and real accountability.

Church wounds are especially hurtful because our best qualities are used against us.

\_\_\_\_\_ - You worked extra hours to be able to financially contribute to a cause of the church... and the leadership misused the funds.

\_\_\_\_\_ - You took a risk and told someone your secret... and they used it to gossip about you later.

\_\_\_\_\_ - I was tired and spent from a very long work week, but I showed up anyways to serve at the church. I rearranged my entire schedule to make sure I was available on the days the church needed help... and they didn't even care or acknowledge the sacrifice.

\_\_\_\_\_ - I came to church looking for real friends who would be a good and positive influence on me... and I saw hypocrites who struggled with the same stuff I struggle with.

\_\_\_\_\_ - I believed what I was told about the Bible... and found out later it didn't say what was presented and the pastor was using it to control and manipulate others for his own benefit.

\_\_\_\_\_ - I thought I would find forgiveness at church and I admitted my struggle with a certain sin... then the church people alienated me.

\_\_\_\_\_ - I took the high road and didn't tell anyone about the concerns I had about that church... but they made me out to be the bad guy after I left.

These types of wounds have multiple repercussions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Promises

Faith, Trust, Safety, Connection, Service, Sacrifice, Generosity, Thinking the Best of Others, etc... We do these things in Church. And when they are abused, we promise ourselves we'll never participate in those areas again.

- I'll never \_\_\_\_\_ again
- I'll never \_\_\_\_\_ again
- I'll never \_\_\_\_\_ again
- I'll never \_\_\_\_\_ in people again

2. Becoming \_\_\_\_\_

This prevents us from acting in love.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-8 NIV**

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails..."

We cannot operate in the purity of God's Love if every aspect of our life is drenched in the blood of cynicism.

You might still be bleeding from a previous church wound if...

- You still flinch at offering time or discussions about money in the church.
- You still roll your eyes at testimonies.
- You only participate at a surface-y level.
- You send your spouse/family to the event because you can't stand being reminded of what you used to do.
- You look for ways to complain because you were optimistic before.

- You have allowed cynicism to replace faith.

### *Generosity*

#### **Proverbs 11:24-25 NIV**

“One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

### *Trust*

#### **Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

### *Serving*

#### **1 Peter 4:10 NLT**

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

### *Friendship*

#### **Ecclesiastes 4:12 NLT**

“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”

### *Pastors*

#### **Matthew 23:8-10 NLT**

“Don’t let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your Father. And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah.”

### *Grace*

#### **Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT**

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

### *Loyalty*

#### **2 Timothy 2:13-14 NLT**

“If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is. Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God’s presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.”

Don’t permanently \_\_\_\_\_ your God-given gift or Godly character because you sustained a wound.