

Received 2/5/23

12 April 2016

To: Gary Allison

From: Consistory of the Hope Protestant Reformed Church Redlands

Gary,

At the consistory meeting held on 11 July, 2016, the following decision was taken:

Art. 7 Motion made and supported to place Gary Allison under the first step of discipline, namely silent censure.

Grounds:

- 1) He refuses to acknowledge his sin of physical and verbal violence against his wife and family. (6th commandment)
- 2) He refuses to develop a plan to pay off his debt. (8th commandment)
- 3) There is a consistent lack of response to the consistories instruction to attend meetings, a lack of preparing information requested to be brought to meetings, and a lack of addressing or heeding the instruction in the first letter of the consistory to him (dated August 4, 2015). (5th commandment)

Motion Carries

The above decision, in accordance to articles 71 and 76 of the church order , (confer also I Cor. 5, II Cor. 2:7, II Thess. 3:14) is taken out of love and concern, not only for your wife and children, but also for your personal spiritual welfare. We mention a three-fold purpose for Christian Discipline, 1) that the name of God be not blasphemed by the world, 2) to safeguard the loyal members of the church against the bad influence of the unfaithful, 3) to move the sinner to shame and repentance (taken from The Church Order Commentary by Van Dellen and Monsma, p 299).

Deuteronomy 11:1 Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgements, and his commandments, always.

II Corinthians 7: 9,10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye were sorrowed to repentance,; for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but sorrow of the world worketh death.

It is our prayer that though our efforts thus far have brought little fruit, yet God will graciously use this remedy to move you to repentance and reconciliation. The Consistory remains willing and eager to work with you to that end.


Elder Mike Gritters


Elder Wayne Buiter

4 August 2015

Subject: Allison Marriage and Family

The committee has not observed any improvements in your marriage or family life other than the end of physical violence. Discussions with the family and others indicate no changes or improvements. There is still no relationship between husband and wife or children. (By relationship we mean a relationship based in love for each other.)

The Committee's observations/reasons for no improvement in your marriage or family:

1. We have not observed your full acknowledgement of your sin in how you have physically or verbally abused your wife and family. In our last meeting this was discussed in detail and the committee did not hear your acknowledgement. There was mostly silence when this was discussed. Actually, when there was some discussion you seemed to want to discuss the justification for your behavior. Our belief is that the family also does not see your acknowledgement and true sorrow over this sin. We strongly believe this is one of the major stumbling blocks to change. If the family does not believe you have acknowledged your sin, have sorrow over that sin, and promise to flee from that sin, there will be no chance of hope or trust on the part of the family. They see your abusive behavior as a very real possibility in the future. You have acknowledged that you have not loved them in the way you should, but there has not been a promise to flee from verbal and physical abuse. You need to see that this behavior is sin. Without that there will be no possibility of the recovery of your marriage or family.
2. The Oceanside house is a financial and physical drain. Three years of continuous improvements and getting it ready for sale have not produced a finished house and there is still no end in sight. Our observation is that there will be only a continued negative return on your investment on house repairs and your current and near term financial condition will not support more work on the home. The monthly cost for PITI and repairs and improvements will continue to be higher than the increase in the sale price of the house. Saying it differently, there is no financial reason for you to continue to work on the house.
3. Our observation is that there are severe financial problems and that your military pension is less than your expenses. There are not enough savings or predicted future incomes which can solve this long term problem. There is no plan to resolve your debt issues.
 - a. Are your expenditures greater than your current or near term expenses?
 - b. What is your plan to fix this financial crises?
 - i. The committee believes the only solution is for you to stop work on the Oceanside house and to spend your time looking for a job. This is the consistory direction to you.
 - c. The elders and deacons stand ready to help, but you cannot continue on the current path.
4. We have a great concern that your wife and family have no picture of the future. There has been no discussion with your wife or the family about the future. We have a great concern for your children. What is the future for your children? Is Taralah's future to remain at home and work for the family? What is she allowed to plan for? A young woman should be allowed to

work or continue her education so that she can provide for herself and for her future family. The children should not be required to work for the family for an indefinite period of time. This is our perspective and we have a great concern for your children.

It is (as head of your home) your responsibility to work towards a Christian, God-Fearing home. You must take the initiative. It is your responsibility to restore love and peace in your family regardless of fault. The consistory stands ready to help and our observations and advice above is the first steps toward creating a healthy, normal Christian family life. Restoration must be done properly and out of love for God and your family. Without change on your part, the current situation will lead to the final and complete destruction of your marriage and family. We need your agreement to make changes.

The committee's instruction to you has been approved by the full consistory and is as follows:

1. You must make full acknowledgement of your sin of physical and verbal abuse to both the consistory and your family. You must give examples of specific instances of physical and verbal abuse on your part and confession of these specific sins to the consistory and your family. There must be expression of great sorrow for each of these sins to each family member, and a promise to never again behave in this manner.
 - a. James 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
 - b. John 1: 8-10 "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
2. The house must be on the market for sale before August 14. See 2 above
3. You need to show the committee your work in finding a job. This has to be a high priority.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4: 11-12 "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 3 : 12 "now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."
 - c. Ephesians 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."
 - d. HC Lord's Day 42 A 111b "further also that I faithfully labor, so that I might be able to relieve the needy
 - e. II Corinthians 12: 14b "for the children ought not not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children"
4. You need to generate a plan for your marriage and family.
 - a. How do you plan to show your love directly to Edee? Specific and Biblical ideas of marriage must be followed. Practical, outward signs of love are required.
 - i. Ecclesiastes 9:9 "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun
 - ii. Ephesians 5: 23 "for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." vs 25 "Husbands, love

your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it: vs 26-32 are helpful as well, and then Vs 33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;...

- iii. Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."
 - iv. 1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."
- b. How do you plan to show love toward your children? How will you develop loving, honest, trusting relationships with your children?
- i. Ephesians 6:4 "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"
 - ii. Colossians 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."
 - iii. Acts 2:39 "For the promise is unto you, and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."
 - iv. Psalm 103:13 "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him."
5. You must have a discussion with Edee to develop long term plans for family, work, finances, and living. This must be a shared decision and if there is disagreement then the committee will assist. You may not just communicate to Edee your plans.

Our fervent prayer is that you carefully consider this instruction and work with the committee to restore your marriage and family to one which glorifies our heavenly Father.

Mike Gritters

Wayne Buiter