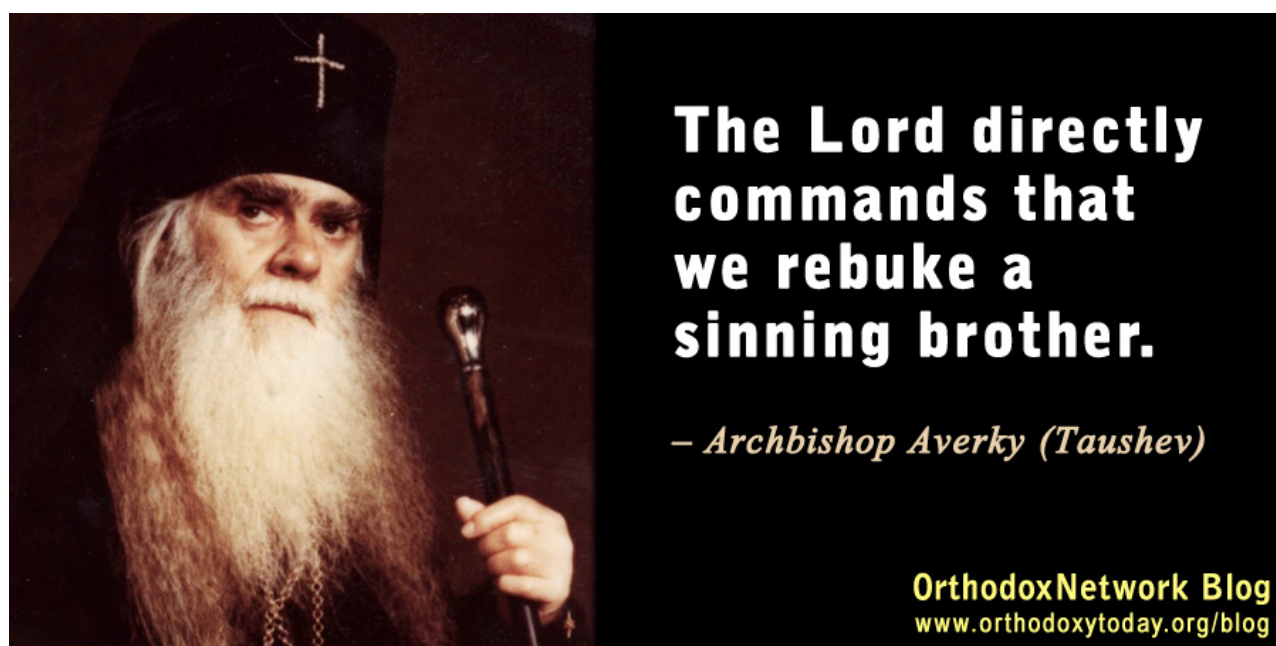


The Lord Directly Commands That We Rebuke a Sinning Brother

November 29, 2023 by Orthodox Editors



by Archbishop Averky (Taushev) –

In order to strengthen their shaky “position”, such false preachers of this trendy, pseudo-“Christianity” like very much to abuse the Lord’s famous saying, *Judge not, that ye be not judged* (Matt. 7:1). This is their very favorite saying, which nevertheless does not hinder them in the least from judging and condemning in the cruelest manner all of those who do not agree with their heresy, which is no more than a totally deceitful distortion of the Gospel teachings—a fraud by which they confuse and disturb many.

In order to correctly understand this saying of the Lord we have to remember that after all, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself Who said, *Judge not, that ye be not judged*, right afterwards taught: *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you* (Matt. 7:6).

Who are these “dogs” and “swine”?

Morally Perverted People Who Reject and Mock Gospel Truth

By these “dogs” and “swine” the Lord means morally perverted people who are incapable of accepting the Gospel Truth, for whom everything sacred is alien and even repulsive, because they cannot understand its value. These are morally fallen, impious and evil

people who often only mock the Gospel Truth, trample it under foot, and can treat the very preachers of it with fury, causing them various disasters and even death (see *St. John Chrysostom, Explanation* by Bishop Mikhail and others).

Discern the Difference Between Good and Evil People

Isn't it clear from this that by the words, "Judge not that ye not be judged" the Lord by no means forbid us from making a moral assessment of people—to discern the difference between good and evil people? And He not only does not forbid us, but as we shall see further, He even commands us to do so.

Thus, the Lord directly commands that we rebuke a sinning brother.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother... (Matt. 18:15).

Bring Other Brothers Into It

And that is not all! Such a wise and Christian judgment is not only allowed to us concerning a sinning brother—we are even supposed to bring other brothers into it: *But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established (Matt. 18:16).*

Inform the Church

But that is still not all! If a brother continues to persist in the evil he is doing, then we need to "inform" the Church about it—that is, the ecclesiastical authorities, who have received from the Lord Himself the blessed right to "bind and to loose": *And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican (Matt. 18:17).*

These last words are the most terrible and totally unacceptable to the perverted pseudo-Christian ideology of those modern propagandists of liberal, fashionable neo-Christianity, for they go completely against its basic principles.

Words of Our Lord Jesus Christ

But whether someone likes them or not, they cannot be stricken from the Gospels—after all, they are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. How can we not take them into consideration?

But modern neo-Christians, among whose numbers are some learned theologians and many high ranking bishops, have no desire at all to be reconciled with the true, authentic Gospel of Christ, but instead self-willfully fabricate their own personal "gospel", as their ideological predecessor Leo Tolstoy of dark memory did in his time.

Alas! For many modern, totally unstable "Christians" who are not firm in the true Christian faith, this is a great temptation and scandal that completely knocks them off the right path.

Judge not, that ye be not be judged!

How alluring this neo-Christian distorted explanation seems: "I will not stop you from sinning, and in return, don't you stop me from sinning!"

This is the horrifying, perverted, criminal refraction of this sacred text, presented to us in our times!

– Archbishop Averky (Taushev)

Excerpts from: [Orthodox Christianity](#). (Minor organizational edits and additional headers added by blog editors to enhance readability.)



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