

Wakefield-Treptie Marking by Greg Metten February, 2002

Shelly Metten speaks

...and I'd like you all to listen very carefully. OK -

"Dear brothers and sisters:

"Because we are a spiritual family, I feel it is important that you be made aware of the recent decision by Dusty & Monica Wakefield, and Adam & Chante Treptie, to no longer be part of our church.

"Over the past several weeks I have had several meetings with them, along with Kevin Collins, Jay & Traci Minar, Chris Chloupek, and Roger Lamb. Most of these meetings have been directed towards Dusty and his attitudes about decisions the leadership has made on behalf of the married ministry.

"When these meetings became unfruitful, I asked Al Baird to get involved to order to solve the disagreement. After meeting with Al Baird, it was determined that the source of Dusty's anger and frustration had to do with a fundamental disagreement he [holds respecting] the biblical authority of the leaders that God had placed in his life.

"It is important to know that during this conflict, Dusty and Monica had contacted numerous disciples and that they're very divisive. Two weeks ago I, along with Kevin Collins and Jay Minar, met with Dusty and warned him about his divisiveness."

And there's a scripture in Titus 3:10 - I think you should write that down - that talks about, warns about [warning a divisive person]. Titus 3:10: "*Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that have nothing to do with him.*"

"Last night the Minars and myself brought together some of the people the Wakefields had been divisive with, and whose lives have been hurt by the things they have said. Dusty and Monica apologised and there was forgiveness. In spite of all these efforts, Dusty and Monica made the decision to leave the church. Adam Treptie has also been involved with these meetings and, along with his wife Chante, has also chosen to leave the church.

"We are saddened by their decision and call on all of you to keep them continually in your prayers. At the same time you need to guard your own hearts and refrain from engaging in any type of gossip or idle talk with them or each other that leads to disunity among the members.

“If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me, Jay, Chris, or our wives.

“Your brother, Greg.”

This letter was read to Dusty and Monica and they understand the content of it, they agree with the content of it. And this is a very serious thing. It's a very, very serious thing. And you need to take it as a very serious thing.

Now I'm sure you may have some questions. Traci actually was in on almost all the meetings, only not the last few and so she - I wasn't in on any of the meetings. Unfortunately, I don't do well in these kind of situations. You need to know that.

I just can get so hurt. I get so hurt. And so, I try not to - uh, what was it that Traci said to me - the being in the way - you know. Which I did. I mean, I got frustrated at one point with Dusty and just walked away and I'm sure that didn't help the situation. I was very devastated by the comment that Adam had made.

Unfortunately it was the same Sunday that my mom was in the hospital and everything was going on. I think I should have been - I just needed to be wiser. I needed to have been - I actually went and helped but I wasn't spiritually and emotionally in a place where I could help.

These are really painful situations. Especially as an elder and an elder's wife, you feel totally responsible for the flock. You know what I mean - it's like you take the responsibility on yourself. And I took some things really personally. And I, you know, I think I was - I know I was really angry with Adam and I feel bad about that. I know that did not help him work through what he needed to work through. However, they have made their choices and you need to respect those choices.

However, you need to guard your hearts. There is no need for you to call them. There is no need for you to try to write them. You need to stay out of the situation. And let the people who are involved be involved. However, they've made their choice.

So if you have any questions about it - the process has taken several weeks. I don't even know how many weeks. And we've gone to every level, and Greg asked Al to be involved and try to help him, actually, because he's been involved in the AMS for a long time and we are new here. And Al tried very hard and met with everybody and we really tried to work this through. But I think that these were - you know - that they left, you know, for their own reasons.

I also think you need to understand that we're going to continue to call you back to the Bible. That's our responsibility before God and we're going to continue to do that. It's hard - I've had - I've fought a lot of discouragement, I've fought a lot of stuff. In the midst of all that, you know, we had a disastrous Saturday, you know - just, Satan's after

all of us, I think. And I think that Traci's message was very, very timely. You know, don't underestimate what he can do. He's trying to destroy us. We've seen that in our marriages, we've seen that in our children. He's evil, he's so evil. He knows how to get us.

So, I hope you'll be wiser than I was. I walked into a situation that I just didn't need to be in and it wasn't the best place for me to be. And I want to encourage you to not make that same mistake. You know, just - it doesn't help, you know, to get involved in things that you're not ready to get involved in.

Really, well, I, I, I really hope that tonight when you get into your D-groups that you'll start really helping each other spiritually. These situations are not situations that have happened in the last few weeks, you know. They are things that have been going on in some cases for years.

And if you've been a friend to someone, then you should have been in their life. Many of you know that - many of you know what's going on. You have to take the responsibility here yourself. That - you know some things you should have said, some ways that you should have been.

So let's, let's not make that that error again. Let's tonight speak the truth in love to each other. One of the issues I think people are having, they feel like there's been a lot of hardline messages. Well, you know what, there's going to be hardline messages until we get unified. Until we really start [presenting each other] perfect.

Even looking out at the group, it's a bigger group than usual. You know, we have a lot of women who are not from this midweek, not from the D-groups, not from the Bible Talks. You know, we have to help each other, and it can't come from us all the time, you know. You guys, it's your church. Our church.

Let's all get in there and help each other out.

[Everyone says, "Amen."]

[applause]