

October 27, 2013

Dear Eleanor,

I don't know that you'll ever realize how much I love you. However, your actions have shown that you are not following God. In 2012, you came to an especially critical point in your spiritual life when you were faced with a decision — you could honor your parents and earn independence or you could dishonor your parents and rebel. Sadly, you chose to sin and have continued to wander. Until you admit your sins and repent, you cannot have fellowship with God. Unintentionally and intentionally, you have and continue to hurt our family and try to tear us apart.

I Corinthians 5 talks about discipline that is to occur ~~when~~ in a church or family when a brother persists in going against God's laws. By dishonoring and rebelling against our parents, you have done the same to God.

This chapter also discusses that Christians are to witness to and minister to the lost — something you have been claiming to do, but the world has been changing you instead. Yes, Jesus ate with tax collectors, sinners, and prostitutes, but His purpose was to call

them to repentance and save them. He did not do it just for mere friendship, acceptance, and fellowship. If you truly loved your friends, you would be actively sharing the gospel with them, praying for them, and living righteously so they could see Christ through you. Instead of your relationships being spiritual, they are extremely temporal.

However, the main topic of this chapter isn't about relationships with the world; instead, it talks about how to deal with a sinning brother. If someone claims to know Christ, but will not follow Him or live in obedience to His will, Christians around that person must discipline him out of love for his ~~sp~~ spiritual well-being. This is to happen in churches or families or any Christian group. I Corinthians 5:11 talks about the man that claims to be a Christian but persists in practicing fornication, covetousness, idolatry, drunkenness, extortion—or even also dishonoring their parents, thereby disobeying God. This person chooses to love the things of the world rather than follow God's Word. Out of love, the Christians around that person are to chasten him and protect themselves from sin by not fellowshiping with him. It wrongs you, me, and God to try to overlook

our differences and sweep sin under the rug. Because of this, I have chosen not to have contact with you. The reason for this is twofold: 1) I am protecting myself from the hurt you cause, the bad influence you bring, and the division you create, but 2) I desperately miss my old sister, and I know it is only Biblical that I do my part to chasten you so you will repent and be close again to God and our family. I pray for this so badly.

Because of what I have just explained, I am requesting that you not attend my graduation this coming spring. I am not doing this to get back at you for some of the incredibly hurtful statements you made about me this year. I forgive you. I do realize, however, that when you are around us you cause division and pain. I want the graduation to be a peaceful, joyful time, and not one that harms our remaining family unit.

I do love you. I know you may not believe me, but you never could have broken my heart if I didn't love you.

Your sister,
