



Community Chapel & Bible Training Center

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Pastor Donald Lee Barnett

Sanctuary located at First Avenue South and South 192nd

March 4, 1988

Donald Barnett
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Dear Inn,

I'm writing to you as your counselor and brother in the Lord who totally loves you and whose heart's desire is to see the will of God come to pass in your life.

In the past six months I have written many letters to you regarding your deep fears—fears of inadequacy, fears of disapproval, fears of rejection—all the deep fears and dreads that you have, and the intricate webs of self-protection and self-justifications that cover these fears. I am grateful you have read these letters and I hope you still have them to read in the future. I have explained to you the many varied manifestations of these self-protective ways that you have used, and how they operate in your life, such as your preaching in your self-interest against your wife and elders and others, the blame, the control, the self pity, and so on.

You also agreed with me that the defensiveness and self-justifying and controlling was sin. You have preached and taught this to this church for many years. I have asked you not to defend and justify yourself to the board of elders during the meetings over the past several weeks. You have told me that you could not stop the self-defense in any way, and the reason you gave to me many times was that "you are too afraid." I could cite the specific letters and dates as well as the counseling sessions that I have spoken with you about these things. It has been the main thrust of my counseling to you.

You have admitted to me at our January 28, 1988, meeting at your house that you knew you should release these self-protections but that you could not because the fear and terror was too great. You also agreed with me that the defensiveness and self-justifying and controlling was sin. You have preached and taught this to this church for many years.

The last six months have represented a window of opportunity for you due to the heavy presence of fear in your life. The pending court cases, the situation with your wife and the state of the church have been instrumental in inciting the fear that has haunted you. But I feel that the Sunday, February 28, 1988, sermon has caused that window to shut tightly. Your public defiance of a lawful and Scripturally reasonable request by the Senior Elders regarding your fellowshiping with women other than your wife has caused a revitalization of control of self in your life as never before. As a consequence the avenues remaining for the Spirit of the Lord to speak truth to your heart at this point and time in your life; have, I'm sorry to say, disappeared. You have adamantly and publicly stated that the control of self will reign in your life which by principle totally displaces the rule of God in your life.

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MOTHERWELL

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As a consequence, the road ahead of you will be treacherous beyond measure. Your ability to find the strength of God to overcome sin in your life has vanished as God has no access to control. I am now absolutely certain that you must be separated from your ministry to save your soul. I wrote this to you in a letter in August, 1987, that you tearfully agreed with. I also reiterated this in my letter of February 2, 1988, in which I stated that God would not allow you to use your office as pastor as a personal covering and that at some point and time that office must go so the only true covering (that is Jesus Christ) could be yours.

It is now also imperative that you be removed from fellowship from this church as well as all churches that fear God. The lies and distortions that were raised in your Sunday, February 28, 1988, sermon were painfully evident to many and beg for reasonable refutation in the minds of those that were so confused by it. The result is that you have publicly exceeded the Scriptural and traditional grounds for disfellowship. I have personally recommended this action to the Senior Elders and the entire board of Elders as an act of mercy for your own soul and as an act of responsibility to God and His people. It was pointless for me to warn you of such after your Sunday sermon and given the former construction of the church bylaws. I know at this point in time, there is no turning back for you. Your repeated public declaration that "self" will reign in control has set you up that the Rock must now fall on you since you have refused to fall on Him.

I plan to remain prepared to help counsel you in the future to find true redemption by way of the Blood of Christ and the truth of the crucified life. I truly long for the day of your true deliverance and restoration by His grace. No individual has ever impacted my life for God and the truth more than you.

I will always love you.

David Motherwell

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