Caring to Confront **11.28.09**

[19]My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, [20]let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)

Christians Wander from the Truth

- What does it mean to wander from the truth?
  - Truth is something we know. (1 Tim 2:4; Heb 10:26)
  - Truth is something we do. (Gal 5:7; 1 John 1:6)
  - Truth is someone we trust. (John 14:6)
- A true Christian can never ultimately leave the truth (1 Cor 1:7-9; Phil 1:6)
- This text is a sobering reminder that we can wander from it
- What are we to do?

When We Wander, We Need Community to Bring Us Back

- Community Care in James 5:13-20
  - *James 5:14*—Sickness—one who is sick calls for the elders
  - *James 5:16*—Sin—one who is sinning confesses to his brothers
  - *James 5:19*—Wandering—one slipping into sin is confronted by his brothers
- Each of these have to do with personal ministry of the Word in counseling
- This last one is different and has to do with our responsibility to minister to people when they don't know they need help (Luke 17:3; Gal 6:1)
- The ideal is that they listen but the Bible also gives guidelines on involving the larger community in bringing back the sinner (Matt 18:15-20)

"Bringing Back" Is Difficult and We Need Encouragement for the Work

- Three common objections
  - "That's none of my business."
  - "It's mean."
  - "What if it makes them not like me?"
- James encourages that whoever brings back a wandering sinner . . .
  - "Saves his soul from death"
  - "Covers a multitude of sins."

Making this Work

- Realize that you need help
- Realize that your brothers and sisters need help
- Come to church
- Plug into your community group
- Pray
- Stay focused on Jesus