



Church Matters

Discipline

Theme: Discipline is a process that churches must be practicing as they seek to encourage others in their fight against sin

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline: _____

Genesis 3:14-19 (ESV)

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Genesis 3:14-19 (ESV)

16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

17 And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

Genesis 3:14-19 (ESV)

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline: Restoration

Hebrews 12:7-11 (ESV)

7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

Hebrews 12:7-11 (ESV)

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline: Restoration

II. The Steps of Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-17)

Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Matthew 7:1-5 (ESV)

1 “Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

Matthew 7:1-5 (ESV)

4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline: Restoration

II. The Steps of Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-17)

a) One to One (vs. 15)

“Loving engagement in each other’s spiritual lives must be normalized in a positive and formative way before corrective discipline can be sustained. Without this context of deeply interpenetrating spiritual relationships, corrective discipline will be like walking up to a child whom you see only once a month and spanking him in the street. It will likely be perceived as harsh, if not abusive, rather than the tough but responsible outworking of loving concern for another’s spiritual good.”

-Mark Dever

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline: Restoration

II. The Steps of Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-17)

a) One to One (vs. 15)

b) Few to One (vs. 16)

I. The Purpose of Church Discipline: Restoration

II. The Steps of Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-17)

- a) One to One (vs. 15)
- b) Few to One (vs. 16)
- c) The Church to One (vs. 17)

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (ESV)

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (ESV)

4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

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III. The Necessity of Church Discipline (1 Corin. 5)

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III. The Necessity of Church Discipline (1 Corin. 5)

- a) For the sake of the sinning brother (vs. 5)

1 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV)

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III. The Necessity of Church Discipline (1 Corin. 5)

- a) For the sake of the sinning brother (vs. 5)
- b) For the sake of other believers (vs. 6-7a)

1 Corinthians 5:6-7a (ESV)

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.

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III. The Necessity of Church Discipline (1 Corin. 5)

- a) For the sake of the sinning brother (vs. 5)
- b) For the sake of other believers (vs. 6-7a)
- c) For the sake of Christ (vs. 7b-8)

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8 (ESV)

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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- a) For the sake of the sinning brother (vs. 5)
- b) For the sake of other believers (vs. 6-7a)
- c) For the sake of Christ (vs. 7b-8)
- d) For the sake of the outside world (vs. 9-10)

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 (ESV)

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—

10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

“Church discipline is a powerful tool in evangelism. People notice when our lives are different, especially when there’s a whole community of people whose lives are different- not people whose lives are perfect, but whose lives are marked by genuinely trying to love God and love one another...”

...When churches are seen as conforming to the world, it makes our evangelistic task all the more difficult. As Nigel Lee of English InterVarsity once said, we become so like the unbelievers they have no questions they want to ask us. May we so live that people are made constructively curious."

- Mark Dever

“Biblical church discipline is simple obedience to God and a simple confession that we need help. We cannot live the Christian life alone. Our purpose in church discipline is positive for the individual disciplined, for other Christians as they see the real danger of sin, for the health of the church as a whole, and for the corporate witness of the church to those outside...”

...Most of all, our holiness is to reflect the holiness of God. It should mean something to be a member of the church, not for our pride's sake but for God's name's sake. Biblical church discipline is a mark of a healthy church."

- Mark Dever

Hebrews 12:6, 10 (ESV)

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

