

Practicing Church Discipline

Introduction

1. When you hear the term “discipline” what do you think of?
 - A. Correcting one that needs correcting?
 - B. Teaching one to submit to your authority?
2. **Discipline defined:** “Training that develops self-control, character, efficiency; submission to authority and control; treatment that corrects or punishes.”
 - A. Why does one discipline another?
 - 1) To bring into obedience
 - 2) Why? Because we LOVE them!!

EXAMPLES: Child drinking; Child doing drugs; Child cussing

3. As parents we show our love toward our children by training them to develop self-control; to do right according to the standard we have adopted as parents.
 - A. Notice what the Hebrew writer says concerning discipline.
Hebrews 12:5-11
 - B. We understand why discipline is important in our homes; it should be no different in the Lord’s church.

4. **One that is disciplined should feel thankful that they are part of a congregation that loves them enough to discipline.**
 - A. **Instead, some have the attitude "I'll just go somewhere else!"**
 - 1) **One may even find a congregation that will not love their soul as much and accept them - but the sin is still there!**
 - B. **EXAMPLE: IRS agent notifying one that has not paid his taxes, he is going to jail and hearing "You can't touch me, I now denounce my citizenship."**
5. **One of the saddest things that a congregation of the Lord must do is MARK an individual that is living a life contrary to the teaching of Jesus Christ!**
 - A. **Yet, this is something that we are commanded to do.**
Romans 16:17-18
 - B. **We are saddened because all have tried so hard to bring the erring brother to repentance - yet as Paul said - they only want to "serve their own belly."**

Proper Church Discipline

1. **Proper discipline is handled in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17.**
Matthew 18:15-17
 - A. **When these steps are followed, an erring brother will usually repent - most of the time after step one.**
 - B. **But when all the steps fail to bring one to repentance, then the Lord's church has no recourse but to mark an individual so that the church can remain pure.**

Paul's Example of Expediency in this Matter

1. **We want to try and do everything within our power to get one to repent.**
 - A. **When one will not respond then they must be turned over to Satan.**
 - B. **Notice how Paul handled the situation in Corinth.**
1 Corinthians 5:1-13
2. **In this case, sin was occurring to the extent that it was public and everyone went along.**
3. **Paul asked them to be expedient because he knew how in just a short time others could be infected (leaven).**
4. **He gives us the seriousness of this matter - not to keep company with or even eat with one who is turned over to Satan!**
 - A. **This is a command to us. It is not easy to do. Especially for the physical family - but we must because it is God's teaching!**
3. **He told Titus:**

Titus 3:10-11 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

- A. **We need to remember that each individual has freedom of choice. When one turns from Jesus he voluntarily condemns himself.**

Be Yoked with Believers

1. A Christian cannot be in fellowship with an unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

1 Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Why Is One Handed over to Satan?

1. One is handed over so that their soul might be saved. Paul writes to Timothy about two that were handed over so they would learn not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:19-20 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 Corinthians 5:5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

2. One is turned over that "he may be ashamed."

2 Thessalonians 3:14

- **Note:** IF we are doing our part as a whole toward one another, then this will hurt!

What Is Our Responsibility to the “Marked” Christian?

1. This is the area that we need to all understand.
 - A. We must realize that this is not a brother that we can still fellowship with - he is in darkness.
 - B. One that goes back into the world after becoming a Christian continues to crucify Jesus and put Him to open shame.
Hebrews 6:4-6
 - 1) We don't want anything to do with one that is living a life like that!

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written to you **not to keep company with anyone named a brother**, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner-- not even to eat with such a person.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, **note that person and do not keep company with him**, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

2. We must withdraw ourselves from every brother that is not walking orderly - after Christ!

2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.**

- A. What is that tradition which was received? **THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.**
2 John 1:9-11

3. **All we can do whether we are the “MARKED” brother’s spiritual and/or physical brother, is talk to him to try and bring him to repentance.**

2 Thessalonians 3:15 Yet do not count him as an enemy, **but admonish him as a brother.**

Whom We Serve Is Our Choice!

1. **God gave all of us freedom of choice on whom we desire to serve. We choose to serve God, the “marked” brother chose to serve Satan!**
2. **Listen to the words of Jesus:
Matthew 10:32-39**
3. **Let us all determine to follow Christ.**
4. **Though we are saddened when we must “MARK” a brother we must understand it is for our good and the brother’s.**
5. **But it will only be effective if we obey the teaching’s of Jesus in this matter.**
6. **Let us all make our choice to strive to learn about and follow Christ each day.**
7. **Those that don’t discipline ---- don’t love.**

Hebrews 12:11 Now **no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

