



the **History** and **Work** of the **Church**

Discipline in the Church

the History and Work of the Church

DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

- **Discipline is not a bad word – Heb 12:9-11**
 - Necessary for an orderly society and the church
 - Discipline is **commanded** and **expected** by God
 - Keeps “*spots or wrinkles*” out – Eph 5:27

“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.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6)

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DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

- **Discipline Defined**

- *“training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character”*
- *“To chastise or wear down, to beat, to punish, to put in the proper order, to put under the proper control”*
- **Instructive Discipline**
 - An elder feeding the flock – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2
 - A preacher feeding the flock – 2 Tim 4:1-2
- **Corrective Discipline**
 - Involved chastening – Heb 12:5-13
 - Involved protection – Rom 16:17; Titus 3:10; 1 Tim 5:20

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- **Personal Offenses** – Matt 18:15-20
 - **Admonish** the one who sinned face to face
 - If he refuses, **bring one or two others**
 - If he refuses, **tell it to the church**
 - If he *still* refuses, treat him as a tax collector
- **Doctrinal/Public Offenses;**
 - **Admonish** the one who sinned face to face – Galatians 2:11-13
 - **Deliver to Satan** quickly – 1 Corinthians 5:1-7

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- **Withdrawing from Unrepentant Brethren**
 - **Withdraw, Note, Shun** those who walk disorderly that they are ashamed – 2 Thess 3:6-15
 - Not counted as enemies, but as a lost one
 - **Put Away** those living immoral lives, in public, severing social relationships with them – 1 Cor 5
 - **Mark** those who cause division – Rom 16:17-18

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- **Reactions to Church Discipline**
 - What if the person about to be disciplined just “withdraws” their membership?
 - There is no scriptural authority to withdraw
 - In cases of attendance issues there would be no effective way to discipline
 - What if the brethren will not cooperate with the discipline against another brother?
 - They are violating God’s word – 2 Thess 3:6,13-14

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- **The Purpose of Discipline**
 - Keep the church pure – Eph 5:25-27
 - Keep sin from spreading – 1 Cor 5:6
 - A church that tolerates sin will attract those who live in sin or are sympathetic to it
 - To save the soul of the guilty – 1 Cor 5:5
 - **NOT** for embarrassment or mean-spiritedness

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- **What Should the Erring Brother Do?**
 - Repent! – Acts 8:22; Rev 3:19
 - Develop godly sorrow – 2 Cor 7:10
 - Confess his sin to God and man – James 5:16; 1 John 1:9
 - Publicly if necessary
 - Pray to God for forgiveness – Acts 8:24; James 5:16
 - God forgives those who sincerely repent
 - Consider even Ahab – 1 Kings 21:27-29

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- **What's in it for the person exercising discipline?**
 - Save your brother and cover a multitude of sins – James 5:19-20
 - Keep the church pure and presentable to God – Eph 5:26-27
 - Do the work of God toward His people – Hebrews 12:9-12
 - Shows we are not arrogant and boastful – 1 Cor 5:2,6
 - Show our obedience to God and our love for the brethren – 2 Thess 3:6,14-15

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- **Summary**

- Discipline is commanded and expected by God
- Discipline will help us make it to heaven
- Discipline is a way to help each other do right
- We need to be willing to forgive and reconcile after discipline
- We need to be willing to withdraw from people when called on
- We need to be willing to “mark” and “identify” those who cause issues
- Discipline will keep the church pure and keep sin out
- Discipline is done to save people from their sins
- People being disciplined need to repent, confess, and pray to God for forgiveness
- Everyone will benefit from carrying out discipline as commanded