

“My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

JAMES 5:19

The Procedure For Scriptural Discipline

The Bible gives the church very clear guidelines for accomplishing God’s best for His church and for His child who is walking in disobedience.

You have first hand knowledge of sin in the body of Christ



Deal With It...

Confront him privately
Matt. 18:15; Luke 17:3

He Listens



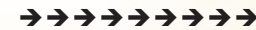
You have served your brother and won him



He Continues...

Confront him with two or three witnesses
Matt. 18:16; Deut. 19:15

He Listens



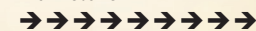
You have served your brother and won him



He Continues...

Tell it to the church
Matt. 18:17, 1 Tim. 5:20

He Listens



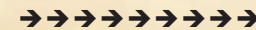
You have served your brother and won him



He Continues...

Put him out of fellowship
Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:5
1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Thess. 3:14-15

He Listens



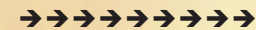
You have served your brother and won him



He Continues...

Turn away from him
Rom. 16:17-19; 2 Thess. 3:6

He Listens



You have served your brother and won him



He Continues...

You have fulfilled your obligation Ez. 33:7-9



He Continues...

He may be disciplined by God. 1 Corin. 11:30-32;
Heb. 12:6; God may take Him. James 1:14-15



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What God’s Word says about Church Discipline



*Making More and Better
Disciples of Jesus Christ*

Protecting and Restoring the Beauty of Holiness in the Church

The premise for this discussion of church discipline arises out of Christ's love for His church. In Ephesians 5:25-27, Paul writes, *"Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to be made holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the world and to present her to Himself as a radiant church*

without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." In other words, Jesus died on the cross for the sole purpose of purifying for Himself a people whom He will present to Himself at the time of His return. The church (the bride of Christ) is made holy by His shed blood on the cross and scripture exhorts us to live in such a way that we do not bring disgrace upon His gift of holiness.

The real danger to the church today lies not with the responsibility to preach against sin, but instead it is the unwillingness to do anything about it when it enters into the ranks of the Body of Christ. The Apostle Peter writes, *"For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God."* (1 Peter 4:17)

It is our conviction that people are desperately longing for a place where people care about the way they live. Church discipline is God's expression of a loving parent who cannot stand idly by while members of His family walk in the way of sin's harm. May this discussion reveal and confirm in your heart the deep love God has for you and for His church.

The Purpose Of Church Discipline

TO PRESERVE THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH

Church discipline is God's way of protecting the church from the contaminating and contagious affects of sin.

1. Purity marks God's Word
Psalm 12:6
Psalm 119:140
2. Purity is demanded of God's people
Phillipians 4:8
1 Timothy 5:22
Matthew 5:48



3. Purity qualifies God's ministers
1 Timothy 3:2
1 Timothy 4:12
4. Purity distinguishes God's Church
Ephesians 5:27
2 Corinthians 11:2
Col. 1:22

TO RESTORE THE SINNER

Church discipline is never intended for punishment. It is always motivated by love and concern for the straying saint to be brought back in to fellowship with Christ and His Church.

- Matthew 18:15
- James 5:19-20
- Proverbs 27:6

TO DETER OTHERS FROM SIN

Church discipline is God's way of deterring the saints from following in the path of sin. It is God's warning sign that danger is ahead.

- 1 Timothy 5:20

The Reason For Church Discipline

What sin justifies the process of church discipline to begin? It is very important to note that we are all sinners (1 John 1:8-9) and that believers are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). Church discipline is not a perfection meter. It is to be applied only to those who refuse to repent of a lifestyle of known sin. Here are the ongoing, unrepentant sins that justifies applying the discipline process.

SINS THAT DISRUPT THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:20:

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.



SINS THAT CONTAMINATE THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:21: *I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.*

SINS THAT ATTACK THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

ROMANS 16:17-19: *I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.*



God's Love In Discipline

The twelfth chapter of Hebrews is a beautiful description of God's reasons for bringing discipline into the lives of His children. Here are six reasons that prove to us that God's discipline is motivated by pure love.

- A. God's discipline proves that he loves us. (Hebrews 12:6)
- B. God's discipline is evidence that He accepts us as His sons. (Hebrews 12:6-7)
- C. God's discipline confirms our legitimacy as His children. (Hebrews 12:8)
- D. Our submission to God's discipline results in long life. (Hebrews 12:9)
- E. God disciplines us so that we can share in His holiness. (Hebrews 12:10)
- F. God's discipline produces righteousness in us and through us. (Hebrews 12:11)