

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

What Is It? / How Do We Use It?

1 Corinthians 5:6 - Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1) Church Discipline in The Scriptures

A. Defined:

- 1) Merriam-Webster - Punishment, Instruction. Training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character. A rule or system of rules governing conduct or activity.
- 2) Thayer's Greek Lexicon - 3809 "paideia":
 1. The whole training and education of children (Eph.6:4).
 2. Whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing the passions; hence a. instruction which aims at the increase of virtue (2 Tim.3:16) b. chastisement, chastening,...: (Heb.12:5).

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B. Practical Application:

- 1) Regulations set forth by God that Instruct Us, Correct Us, Reprimand Us, Equip Us to begin to be conformed to the image of Jesus our Christ & Savior! [2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 8:28-31]
- 2) Preventative In Nature - 2 Tim. 4:1-5
- 3) Corrective In Nature - Matthew 18:15-17

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C. Purpose Of Church Discipline:

- 1) It Is Not: an act of revenge.
It Is Not: to be done in spite.
It Is Not: to embarrass.
- 2) It Is Designed To:
 - Save The Erring Christian:

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1 Corinthians 5:5 - "that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Matthew 18:15 - "If he hears you, you have gained your brother."

2 Thessalonians 3:14 - "that he may be ashamed."

Galatians 6:1 - "you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,"

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- 2) It Is Designed To:
 - Save The Erring Christian:
 - Protect The Church: 1Cor. 5:6-7; 1 Tim. 1:19-20
 - Preserve The Integrity of The Church: 1 Cor. 1:22-23

2) Conduct Deserving of Church Discipline

A. Scriptural Reasons to Act:

- 1) A brother who has sinned against another, but refuses to repent of his transgression (Matt. 18:15-17).
- 2) Those who cause others to stumble, and who initiate division (Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10).
- 3) Those who practice such sins as fornication, covetousness, extortion, idolatry, drunkenness, etc... (1 Cor. 5:9).

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A. Scriptural Reasons to Act:

- 4) Those who teach false doctrines (1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:16-18).
- 5) Those who walk disorderly are to be refused association by the faithful (2 Thess. 3:6).

Closing Thoughts...

➤ Eldership Should Lead:

- 1 Corinthians 5, Paul speaks to all the brethren of the church, not just the eldership.
- It is an activity on the part of the entire church. (Mat. 18:15-17)

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

NKJV

**Acts
22:16**