

God Disciplines Those Whom He Loves

A Biblical Look At Church Discipline

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Where We Are Going This Morning

1. Church discipline “core passages”
2. Different discipline forms and elders’ roles
3. The Holiness of God and the church

Premise: God’s Love For His Sheep

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves
He disciplines, and He scourges every son
whom He receives.”

God’s Love For His Sheep

Matthew 18:12, 14 What do you think? If any
man has a hundred sheep, and one of them
has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-
nine on the mountains and go and search for
the one that is straying?... So it is not the will
of your Father who is in heaven that one of
these little ones perish.

Jesus On Church Discipline

Matthew 18:15-17 If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 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.

Jesus On Church Discipline

Matthew 18:18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Binding and Loosing = Declaring what is or is not sin. (cf. Matt. 16:19 – terms of salvation)
Future perfect passive verbs = God has already done the binding and loosing (His word!)

Paul On Church Discipline

1 Corinthians 5:1-2,5 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles...You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst...I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

General Discipline + Special Situations

General sin in the church: Matthew 18:15-17

Public Heresy/False Teaching: Refute/correct

Busy bodies: 1. Take note of him 2. Keep aloof from him 3. Admonish as a brother

Accusation of Elder: 1. Need 2-3 witnesses 2. If sin continues, then rebuke before all

Divisiveness: 1. Give 2 warnings 2. Reject him as perverted, sinful, self-condemned

Public Heresy/False Teaching

Galatians 2:14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

- Matthew 18 applies to only believers!
- False teaching seems to have been dealt with in the manner it was taught (private/public).

Public Heresy/False Teaching

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines...

1 Timothy 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

Busybodies

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 10-11 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...For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.** For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.

Busybodies

2 Thessalonians 3:12, 14-15 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread...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.

Discipline of Elders

1 Timothy 5:17-20 The **elders** who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." Do not receive an accusation against an **elder** except on the basis of two or three witnesses. Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.

The Divisive Man

Titus 3:9-11 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Factionous (αἰρετικός) = divisive/heresy

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

The Role of Elders

1 Peter 5:1-2 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness (cf. Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:5, 9; 1 Timothy 5:17).

Elder/Congregant Responsibilities

1. General Sin in the church:

Congregant: Matthew 18:15-17

Elder: Matthew 18:15-17

2. Heresy/False Teaching/Factionous Man

Congregant: Matthew 18:15-17; 2 John 9-11

Elder: 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:10; Galatians 2:4

3. Sin of an Elder

Congregant: 1 Timothy 5:19

Elder: 1 Timothy 5:19-20

The Purpose of Discipline

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

James 5:19-20 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

What About Those Who Don't Repent?

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

God's Holiness and The Church

1 Peter 1:15-16 ...but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Christ's Church: The No Sin Zone!

1 John 3:5-6 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
