

Loving Discipline

Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

I. The Purpose of Discipline

Discipline is not easy nor fun but is necessary: Health, Family, Etc.

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly

Hebrews 5:8 though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered

But the New Testament commands it be done

1 Corinthians 5 Man openly living with his father's wife

1 Timothy 1:19-20 Hymenaeus/Alexander handed over to Satan

Discipline is not designed for the struggling sinner (Illus of 1 Cor. Sins)

It is designed for those callously remaining in sin

The brother who wrongs someone, Mt 18

Those who split churches and cause others to stumble

Titus 3:10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition

False teachers

2 Tim 2:16-18 But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. **17** And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, **18** who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some

Those who openly practice sin, refusing to repent, 1 Cor. 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

Those who rebel against authority, 2 Thess. 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

III. The Procedure of Discipline, Matthew 18:15-20

Withdrawal is the end of the process, that is rarely reached

Our responsibility as individuals

Mt 18, Don't gossip (Acts 15:1)

Our responsibility in finding a mediator

As a witness, hopefully as a mentor/influencer

Our Responsibility Before the Church

Let everyone know what is happening/shame and encourage

Our Responsibility in Withdrawing Fellowship

2 Thess 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.

15 Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother

IV. The Product of Discipline

To Save A Soul From Destruction

Mt. 18:15 Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother

2 Thess. 3:14 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

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted

To protect the church

1 Cor. 5:6 Your glorying *is* not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

To glorify God through his church

1 Timothy 5:14 Therefore I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed

2 Peter 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed

The Parable of The Flame: Whatever you do, try to not let it go out!