

Church Discipline

(Theological Bible Training: Week 4, Session5)

“To live above, with saints we love,
will certainly be glory.
To live below, with saints we know –
well, that’s another story!”

T.L.C. – Tough Loving Correction

Matthew 18v15-20

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.
¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Church Discipline – Process (Matt.18)

1. Think

- Is this a *significant* thing?
- This is a *brother / sister*!
- The goal is to *win* them

Church Discipline – Process (Matt.18)

1. Think

2. Act

1. *Appeal* in private
2. *Include* one or two others
3. *Involve* the church
4. *Exclude* the offender

Church Discipline – Process (Matt.18)

1. Think

2. Act

3. **Heed** (How do I cope with rebuke?)

Church Discipline – Process (Matt.18)

1. Think

2. Act

3. Heed

4. Pray

2Corinthians 2v5-11

⁵ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure – not to put it too severely – to all of you.

⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

Church Discipline – Principles (2Cor.2)

1. The open sin of one member *grieves* all the members
2. The *gathered* church is to exercise discipline
3. Failure to discipline where discipline is required is a failure of *obedience*
4. The goal of discipline is *sorrow* in the offender (and thus repentance)

Church Discipline – Principles (2Cor.2)

5. Such a person ought to be met with *forgiveness, comfort, and reaffirmed love*
6. All of us should act (a) in the sight of Christ, and (b) for the good of the church
7. When we fail to forgive, we have been outwitted by Satan, the arch-accuser

Church discipline models the gospel