

## Dealing with Sinning Christians

(An Overview of Church Discipline)

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 5, Matthew 18:15-20, Gal 6:1-2

**Main Idea:** Obediently, the Church must practice discipline toward professing Christians who persist in known sin.

- The Problem of Discipline:** The Church was \_\_\_\_\_ about sin & impurity rather than mourning! (v. 1-2a)
  - Discipline reveals a concern for \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph 5:3, 11)
  - Discipline reveals a concern for \_\_\_\_\_. (Lev 18:7-8)
  - Discipline reveals a concern for \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Practice of Discipline:** Tell the Church & remove the \_\_\_\_\_ from among you! (v. 2b-5, Matt 18:15-20)
  - Follow the \_\_\_\_\_ of Matthew 18:15-20.
  - The *unrepentant* “so-called” brother must be \_\_\_\_\_ from the Church.
  - The *unrepentant* “so-called” brother must be handed over to Satan for the destruction of his \_\_\_\_\_ in hopes that he will be saved. (1 Tim 1:20, 1 Jn 5:16-17)
- The Purpose of Discipline:** To maintain \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church! (v. 6-8)
  - To prevent the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. (v. 6)
  - To create a \_\_\_\_\_ for holiness. (v. 7-8)
  - To encourage \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ with God & the Church revealing the fruit of genuine faith. (Matt 18:15-21, 2 Cor 2:5-11, Gal 6:1-2)
- The People of Discipline:** While God will judge the world, the Church is to \_\_\_\_\_ those *inside* the Church! (v. 9-13)

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### Application Questions:

1. How would you answer the objections that the practice of Church discipline is 1) unkind & intolerant, 2) opens the church up to litigation, & 3) runs visitors & new people off because it makes the Church seem judgmental?
2. Which sins actually require confrontation & Church discipline? Should the Church do discipline for any and all sin? (Look at the lists of sins Paul gives in 1 Corinthians 5:11 & 6:9-10. Would this list indicate some sort of parameters?) How does Proverbs 19:11 fit into this?
3. How should family members relate to a sinning family member if they are found to be unrepentant & living in sin?... and have been disciplined by the Church?
4. If you found out that one of your brothers or sisters in Christ were living in unrepentant sin, how should you confront them? Which sins are worthy of confrontation? What pitfalls should you avoid that many Christians fall into concerning confrontation? (Read over the steps of Matthew 18:15-20). Should you immediately go and tell the pastor what you know?
5. What is the ultimate goal of confrontation? (See Gal 6:1-2) Why would anyone want to confront another person? Aren't we to be tolerant of others? Doesn't the Scripture say, "Judge not lest you be judged!" (Matt 7:1)? What is the difference in Matthew 7:1 & 1 Corinthians 5:12-13?
6. If someone *truly* repents when he/she is confronted & seeks restoration, what should the Church's response be? (See 2 Cor 2:5-11) This passage may well be the exact "so-called" brother of 1 Cor 5 who has repented. Can you identify the 3 specific exhortations Paul gives the Church about how to treat the repentant brother in v. 7-8?

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