

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Text: Ephesians 5:26-27

I. Objectives in Church Discipline

- A. To remove the defilement and leavening influence that sin brings (1 Cor. 5:6-8).
- B. To protect other believers from sinning and to challenge them to godliness (1 Timothy 5:20; Gal. 6:1).
- C. To produce soundness in faith (Tit. 1:13).
- D. To reclaim and restore the erring brother (2 Cor. 2:5-11).

II. Attitudes in Church Discipline

- A. Meekness (Gal. 6:1-5:23).
- B. Uncompromising stand against sin (Tit. 1:13).
- C. Love (2 Thess. 3:9-15).
- D. Forgiving spirit upon repentance (2 Cor. 2:5-11; notice how Satan may use the absence of a forgiving spirit, v. 11).

III. Principles for Church Discipline

- A. No partiality (1 Tim. 5:21).
- B. No haste, though with deliberate steps (Matt. 18:15-20).
- C. With the goals of correction and eventual restoration (2 Cor. 2:6-8).

IV. People to Be Disciplined

The Scriptures mention seven kinds of people that need discipline (some overlap).

A. An accused elder (1 Tim. 5:19-20). Note the presence of witnesses and the public nature of the rebuke.

B. A sinning brother (Matt. 18:15-20). How many private rebukes? What is involved in treating the unrepentant person like a Gentile and publican?

C. An overtaken brother (Gal. 6:1). "Restore" as in Matthew 4:21, Ephesians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 3:10.

D. An unruly brother (2 Thess. 3:6).

E. False teachers (Tit. 1:10-16). Compare 2 Tim. 2:17-18; 1 Tim. 1:20; 1 Cor. 15.

F. Factious people (Tit. 3:8-11; Rom. 17:17). What is involved in "turning away" from them?

G. An immoral brother (1 Cor. 5:1-13). What is meant by "delivering to Satan"? Note the different punishment for those who commit the other sins listed in v. 11.