

Church discipline...what is it?

Church – the “called out” of the world; the body of Christ in local congregations

Discipline - training that develops self-control, character, or orderliness, and efficiency; self-control or orderly conduct; acceptance of or submission to authority and control; a system of rules, as for the conduct of members of an order; treatment that corrects (WNW)

Basis for discipline = Bible, word of Christ – Eph. 1:22, Jesus is head over all things to the church

Church discipline...who?

I Cor. 5:1-5, 9, 11, 13; II Jn. 9-11 – Those guilty and unrepentant of sin, false teaching

Rom. 16:17 – Those who cause division, needlessly argumentative, sowing discontent

II Thess. 3:6 – Those who are disorderly, refuse to submit to authority of elders, church (I Cor. 14:40)

Church discipline...what?

I Cor. 5 – V.5: “deliver them to Satan”, V.7: “purge out old leaven”, V.11: “with such a one, no not to eat” V.11: “keep no company”

II Jn. 10 – “receive him not into your house”, “neither bid him Godspeed”

Rom. 16:17 – “mark them”, “avoid them”

II Thess. 3 – V.6: “withdraw yourselves”, V.14: “note them”, “have no company”

Church discipline...when?

II Thess. 3:14-15 – After much effort,
exhorting

I Cor. 5:4 – When saints are gathered
together

Mt. 18:15-17 – Order given by Jesus to
use when a brother or sister has
“trespassed” against you

Church discipline...why?

- 1) God, through Holy Spirit, has said so**
– I Cor. 5; II Jn. 9-11; Rom. 16:17;
II Thess. 3
- 2) To preserve the purity of the church –**
I Cor. 5:7
- 3) To shame the sinner in hopes that he**
will come back to the faith – II Thess.
3:14, lit. “to turn in”
- 4) To save the sinner from hell – I Cor.**
5:5, James 5:19-20

Church discipline...how?

- 1) Gal. 6:1 - With proper attitude, meekness
- 2) With love, as a family— II Thess. 3:15

It is to be done in love and concern in order to get them back into the fold.

Church discipline...

It is not “excommunication”, or exile – Gal. 6:1, James 5:19-20

-- “the action of officially excluding someone from participation in the sacraments and services of the Christian Church”

Church discipline is action taken by the body of Christ in order to instruct and correct those who are not abiding to the word of God – It is not a matter of choice...it is a commandment!