

Dealing with Sin in the Church

Selected Scripture

I. The Biblical Texts on Church Discipline

A. By Christ's Authority & Command (Matt. 16:16-19; 18:15-20)

B. By Apostolic Command & Pattern (1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:6-8; Gal. 6:1; 1 Th. 5:14; 2 Th. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 5:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:16-19; Titus 3:9-11)

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II. The Primary Reasons for Church Discipline

A. For the Lord

B. For the Church

1. To keep the church pure (1 Cor. 5:2, 6-8, 13*; 11:27)

2. To protect the church from false teachers and doctrinal error (1 Tim. 1:19-20; Titus 3:10-11)

3. To make all afraid of sin (1 Tim. 5:20)

C. For the Sinning Christian

1. To restore him to the Lord and the church (Matt. 18:12-14; Gal. 6:1)

2. To create a proper sense of shame (2 Th. 3:14)

3. To deliver him over to Satan for destruction of his flesh (1 Cor. 5:5)

4. To save his soul (1 Cor. 5:5)

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III. The Biblical Process of Church Discipline

- A. The 1st Step: Private Confrontation (15)
- B. The 2nd Step: Private Confirmation (16)
- C. The 3rd Step: Public Proclamation (17a)
- D. The 4th Step: Final Excommunication (17b)

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IV. The Right Attitude (Mt. 18; Gal. 6:1)

- A. Genuine love (18:12-14)
- B. Eagerness to forgive (18:21ff)
- C. Desire to restore (Gal. 6:1a)
- D. Gentleness (Gal. 6:1a)
- E. Humility (Gal. 6:1b)

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- V. Two Common Questions about Church Discipline
 - A. Why does our church do this when so many other churches don't?
 - B. Why do we practice it at communion?