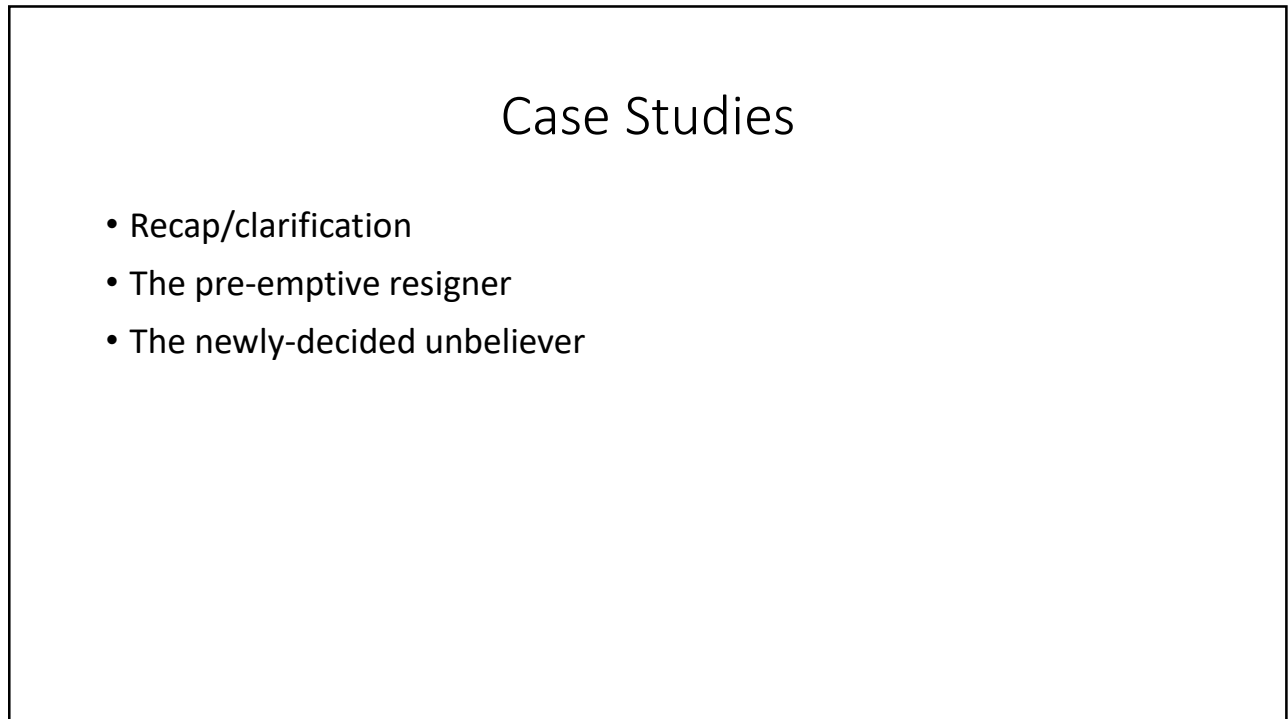




1



2

Church Discipline | A Summary

- Church discipline serves the two-fold purpose of guarding the purity of the church and urging a sinner toward repentance through restoration-aimed shaming—it is not punitive.
- Meaningful church discipline requires regenerate church membership.
- As a key-wielding activity, the church is the final arbiter in church discipline (Matt 18).
- Church discipline does not require that members know a potential candidate for church discipline personally—all they need to know is that the inconsistent triad is present.
 - How Scripture describes Christ-followers
 - That the person professes to be a spirit-indwelt follower of Jesus
 - The contingent facts of the situation suggesting that a person is unrepentantly living in a manner that does not describe a Christ-follower

3

Church Discipline | A Summary

- Consideration of church discipline by members does not involve making a private judgment call about the status of someone's soul—it is an evaluation of 1) Scripture 2) public profession and 3) public (bad) fruit
- The process of restoration from church discipline will differ in every case, but will ultimately happen when the congregation can once again affirm that a person's life is consistent with their profession of faith according to Scripture.

4

Baptism | Entry-Rite of the New Covenant

- Circumcision in the OT
 - Administered only to infant males (Gen. 17:9-14)
 - Likely a dual-sign (Deut. 10:12-16) in light of a mixed covenant people
- New Covenant (Jer. 31)
 - Circumcision of the heart, not baptism, is the fulfillment of circumcision (cf. Deut. 10:12-16; Rom. 2:28-29)
 - A baptized person is outwardly expressing their circumcision of heart (Col. 2:11-12)

5

Baptism | Entry-Rite of the New Covenant

- Like circumcision, baptism is also administered to infants, but infants understood in the context of the inaugurated Kingdom of God—infants in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1), born from above (Jn. 3:4; 1 Pet. 1:3), by the Spirit (Jn. 3:6), who, like all infants, require spiritual milk (1 Cor. 3:2) and nursing (1 Thess. 2:7-8).
 - Baptists baptize spiritual infants on the basis of their spiritual circumcision as the public, physical entry-rite of the New Covenant.

6