

Church Discipline

1. The basis for church discipline

- a. The holiness of God is to be upheld (I Pet. 1:15-16)
- b. The testimony of Christ is at stake (I Cor. 5:1)
- c. The purity of the Church body is needed (I Cor. 5:6)

2. The Reasons for church discipline

- a. Immorality - I Cor. 5:1-6
- b. False doctrine - II Tim. 3:5
- c. Disorderly walk - II Thes. 3:6-14
- d. Divisiveness (schismatic influence) - Rom. 16:17-18

3. The Procedure for church discipline (Mt. 18:15-17)

- a. Personal reproof (v. 15)
"Tell him his fault between thee and him alone"
- b. Private conference (v. 16)
"Take with thee one or two more"
- c. Public Announcement (v. 17)
"Tell it unto the church"

The church must render a verdict; the offender must be notified of the verdict and given one more chance to repent.

- d. Public Exclusion (v. 17b; I Cor. 5:1ff)

If unrepentant, the offender is to be severed from the membership.

4. The Attitude in church discipline

Not a vengeful vindictiveness, but:

- a. Brotherly love (II Thes. 3:14-15)
- b. A spirit of meekness (Gal. 6:1)

5. The Goal of church discipline

The purpose for church discipline is not permanent excommunication but the restoration of the erring brother (EX: child discipline)

II Cor. 2:5-11 - When the offender repents and publically acknowledges his sin:

- a. "Forgive him" (v. 7)
- b. "Comfort him" (v. 7)
- c. "Confirm your love toward him" (v. 8)