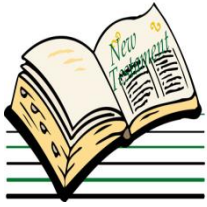


## Sermon Notes



Title: "Discipline in the Body of Christ" Part 2

Text: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Theme: The Church must be a body that cares for itself. We all must care enough about one another to withdraw the stamp of Christian approval when a beloved brother or sister in Christ withdraws from following Christ as he or she should.

### I. The Main Command Is to Avoid Unruly and Disruptive Brethren (6)

### II. Paul's Example (7-10)

### III. Commands to the Unruly (11-12)

### IV. Commands to the Faithful (13-15)

### V. Closing Benediction and Authentication (16-18)

## VI. Applications

A. Discipline in the Church should \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ as individual Christians help and encourage \_\_\_\_\_ and discourage \_\_\_\_\_.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Christians are to make it clear to the unruly and disruptive that their behavior is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ them and by not \_\_\_\_\_ with them in such behavior.

**Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:**

1. What is the central command of this passage (v. 6)?
2. What characterized those who were living this way (v. 6a)?
3. How were these brethren being "idle"?
4. What was Paul's way of living when he was with the Thessalonian believers (vv. 7-8)? Why did Paul act this way (v. 8c)?
5. Did Paul have a right to material and financial support from the church v. (9a)? Why did he forego this right? (v. 9b)?
6. When Paul was with the Thessalonian church, what command did he issue (v. 10)?
7. What did Paul hear about the idle and unruly brethren (v. 11)?
8. What did Paul command those who were idle to do (v. 12)?
9. What two things were the faithful brothers and sisters to do (vv. 13-14)?
10. How were the faithful brethren not to treat those who were living unruly and disorderly lives (v. 15)?
11. Do you think Paul's remedy for correcting disobedient brethren is too harsh? Explain.
12. What might hinder church discipline from starting and being effective at the grass roots level?
13. Why is church discipline often avoided at the private level among church members and even at the official level involving leaders of the church?
14. How might church discipline at the private level be abused?
15. Do you think Paul is advocating "shunning"? Explain.
16. What would be a difference between Paul's concept of keeping away from a sinning brother and shunning as traditionally and popularly practiced in some groups?
17. How do disobedient church members "shun" their brethren?
18. Should you have absolutely "nothing to do" with a disobedient brother or sister in the Lord? Why or why not?
19. How can you have contact with a habitually sinning brother or sister in Christ and yet "keep away" from him or her when they deliberately sin against Christ?
20. What are typical reasons why we neglect calling our sinful brothers or sisters to account?