

Home Helps

2 Corinthians 13:1-2

Discipline in the Church

This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. ² I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest *as well*, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*,

I. The Importance of Church Discipline (v.1a-2) – This is the third time I am coming to you . . . ² I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest *as well*, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*

Aspects of Church Discipline:

1. Positive
2. Negative

II. The Practice of Church Discipline (v.1b) – EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

1. Based on Scripture
2. Steps of Church Discipline
3. Practiced in Love
4. Goal is Restoration

1. Launching Question(s):

- Have you ever witnessed proper church discipline before?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Quoting the Old Testament, the author of Hebrews states, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." (Heb. 12:5-6)
- How is proper discipline an expression of genuine love?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- See Matthew 18:15-17.
- According to Jesus, what are the four steps of church discipline?
- Paul quotes the Pentateuch when he states, "EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES."
- Why is it important to have two or more witnesses?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Paul warns the Corinthians, "if I come again, I will not spare *anyone*." The word for "spare" is used in classical Greek to speak of sparing someone's life on the battlefield. It conveyed the idea of having mercy on an enemy. So, Paul is warning the Corinthians that if they have not dealt with the sinners in the church, he will show no mercy when he arrives in Corinth.
- Given what Paul has been dealing with in the Corinthian church, is this an appropriate response?

5. Application Question(s):

- How can you pray for the peace and holiness of your church this week?