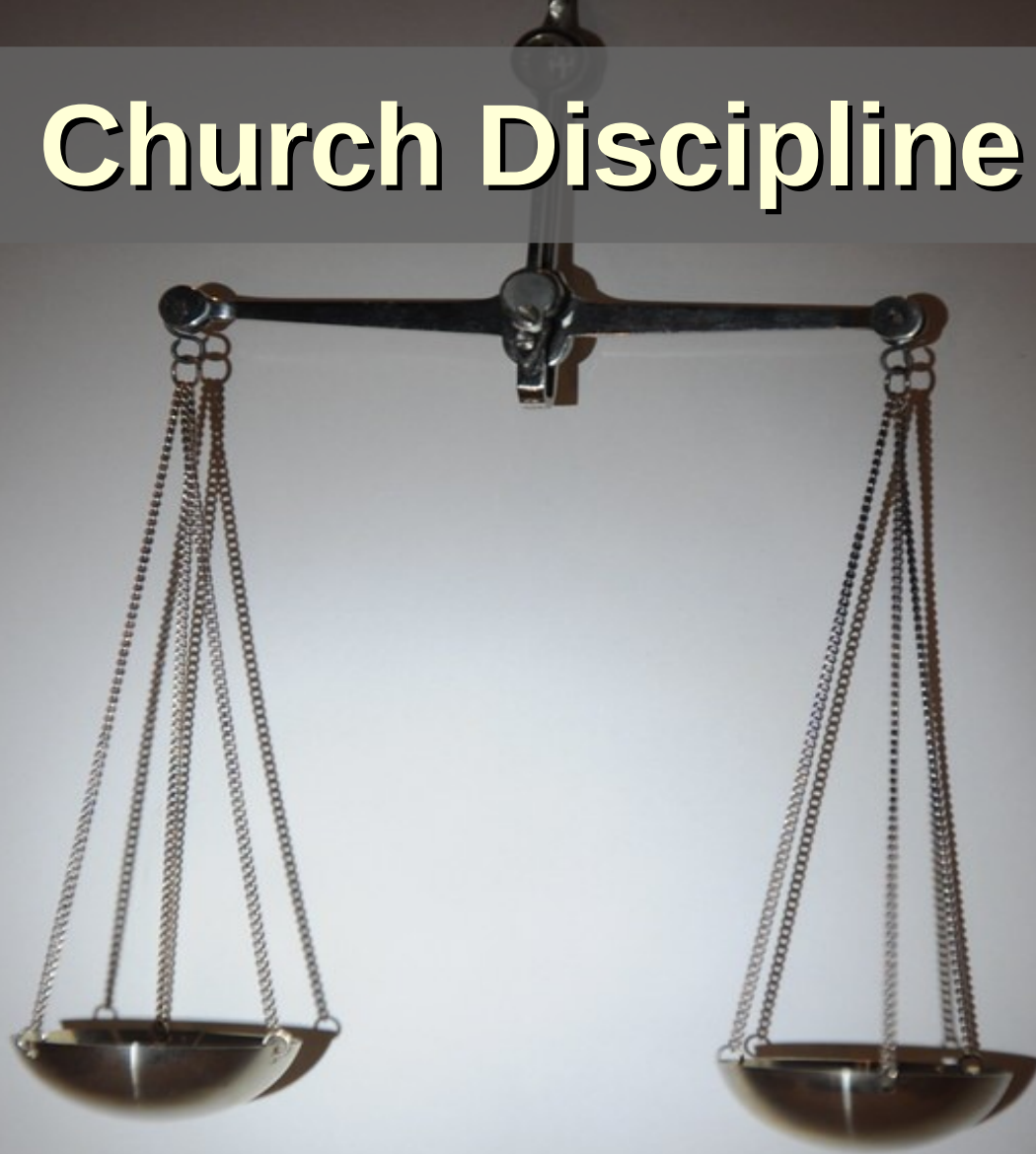


Church Discipline



Church Discipline

A pair of brass scales of justice is centered in the background. The scales are made of polished brass and hang from a dark metal frame. The pans are currently empty and appear to be in a balanced state. The background is a dark, textured grey.

Three Purposes of Church Discipline

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

God disciplines those he loves

Heb 12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

Parents discipline children they love

Prov 13:24 He who spares the rod
hates his son, but he who loves him is
careful to discipline him

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

The church disciplines those it loves

Matt 18:15 “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

**Discipline is a hopeful rescue mission
in first-step restoration**

Prov 24:11 Rescue those being led
away to death; hold back those
staggering toward slaughter.

Gal 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught
in a sin, you who are spiritual should
restore him gently.

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

or last-step restoration

2 Thess 3:14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed.

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

or last-step restoration

1 Tim 1:19-20 ...holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.
20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

or last-step restoration

1 Cor 5:5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

The danger often comes in the form of religious people (wolves)

Acts 20:29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

1. Restoration and Reconciliation

The danger often comes in the form of religious people (wolves)

Gal 1:7b-8 Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

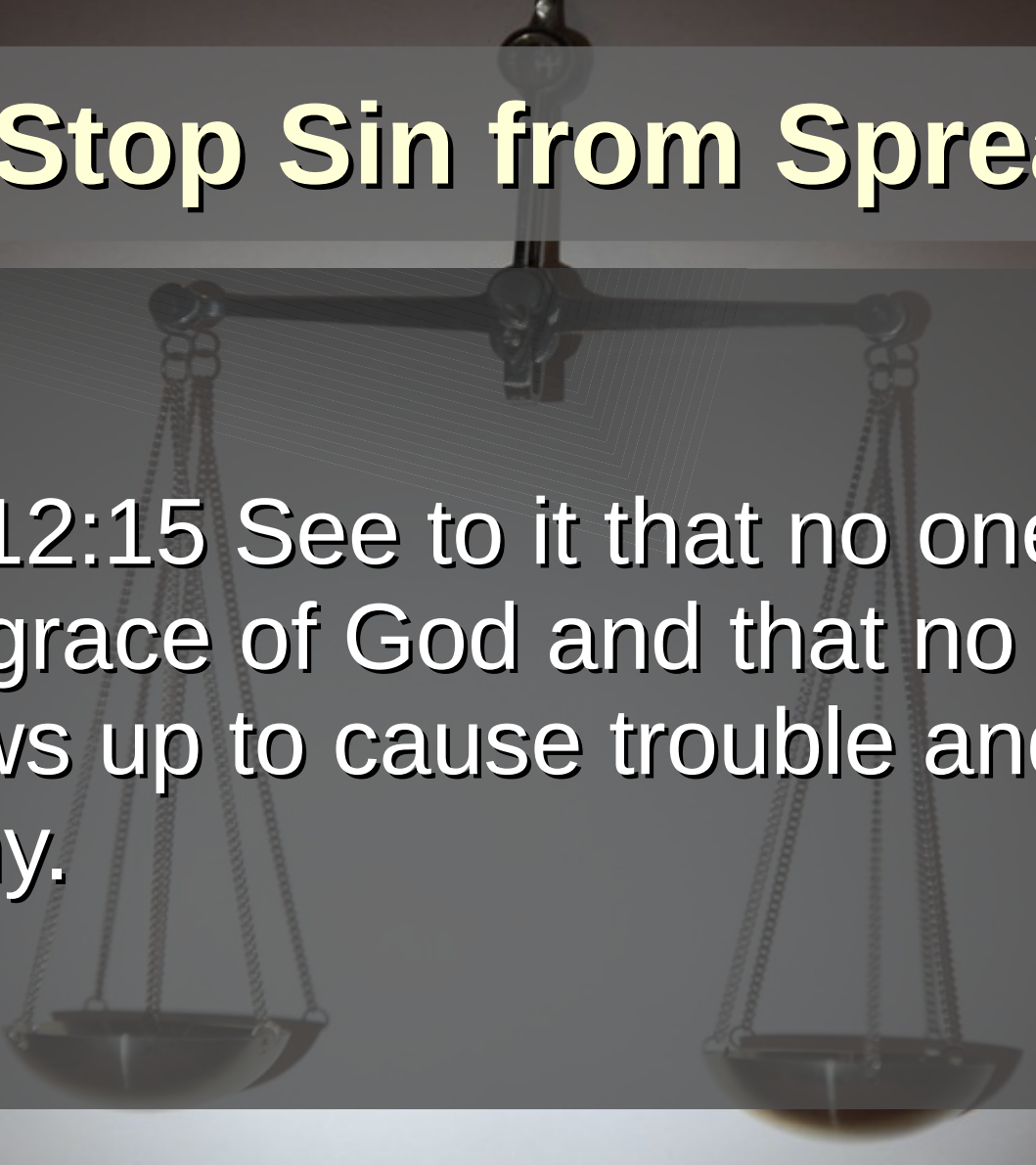
1. Restoration and Reconciliation

This is one of Satan's major strategies to destroy the bride of Christ

2 Cor 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

2. To Stop Sin from Spreading

Heb 12:15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.



2. To Stop Sin from Spreading

1 Cor 5:2, 6 A man has his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? V6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?

2. To Stop Sin from Spreading

Gal 2:11, 13 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. V13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

2. To Stop Sin from Spreading

Even elders who sin are to be publicly rebuked so that others fear falling into sin

1 Tim 5:20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

2. To Stop Sin from Spreading

Church discipline reminds a church that we are serious about keeping people from being destroyed by sinful lives

Gal 4:15a, 19 What has happened to all your joy? V19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.

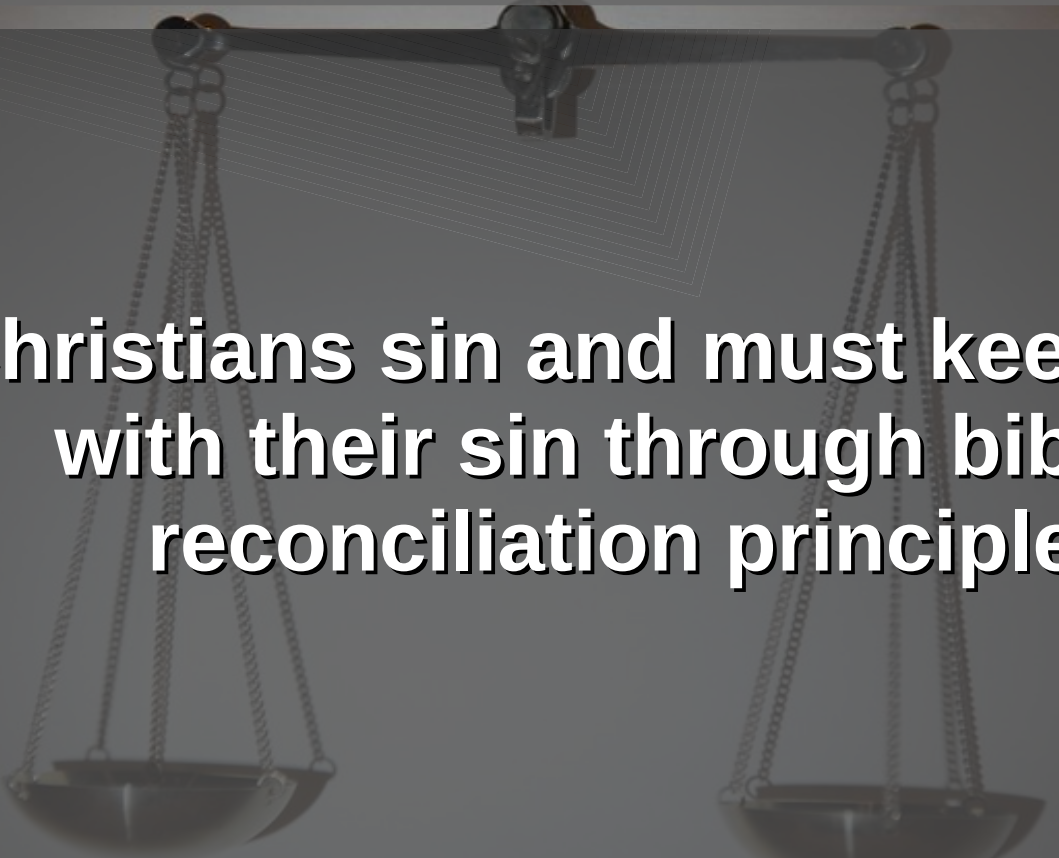
2. To Stop Sin from Spreading

Another of Satan's major strategies to destroy the church is to get Christians fighting with each other

2 Cor 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

All Christians sin and must keep dealing with their sin through biblical reconciliation principles.



3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

1 Jn 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

But when a believer stops doing this and embraces sin so that it is:

- (1) continual,**
 - (2) obvious to others, especially unbelievers,**
and
 - (3) leading others into sin,**
- it brings disgrace to Christ—the head of the church**

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

Rom 2:24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

**Not only in the eyes of unbelievers
but the invisible spirit realm**

Eph 3:10 His intent was that now,
through the church, the manifold
wisdom of God should be made
known to the rulers and authorities in
the heavenly realms

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

Paul is distressed about this kind of sin in Corinth

1 Cor 5:2; 6:5 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? 6:5: I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

All Christians should be eager to maintain purity and unity in the church

Eph 4:1-3 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

3. To Protect Church Purity and Christ's Honour

because God is eager to maintain them too

1 Cor 11:27ff Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord—God's judgement follows.

Church Discipline



The Types of Sins to be Disciplined

The Types of Sins to be Disciplined



A Wide Variety:

Divisiveness (Rom 16:17; Titus 3:10), **incest** (1 Cor 5:1), **laziness and refusing to work** (2 Thess 3:6-10), **disobeying what Paul writes** (2 Thess 3:14-15), **blasphemy** (1 Tim 1:20), and **teaching heretical doctrine** (2 Jn 10-11).

The Types of Sins to be Disciplined



Commonalities in these texts

1. Publicly known
2. Continuing over a period of time
3. They are destructive to the person and others

Church Discipline

A pair of brass scales of justice is centered in the background. The scales are made of polished brass and have two pans hanging from a horizontal beam. The scales are slightly tilted, with the right pan appearing lower than the left. The background is a dark, textured grey.

**How Should Church
Discipline be Carried Out?**

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Knowledge of the sin should be restricted to the smallest group possible to restrict the damage as much as possible—Matt 18:15-17 pattern.

It is good if the church is surprised when it is told to the church—no gossip.

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Disciplinary measures should increase in strength until a resolution

If you are aware that another Christian has sinned (even against you), **you go** (Matt 18:15)

If you are aware that you have sinned against another Christian, **you go** (Matt 5:23)

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude
before confrontation

Confront with *love*
Eph 4:15 speaking the truth in love

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude
before confrontation

Confront with *gentleness*

Gal 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude before confrontation

Confront with *humility*

Phil 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude
before confrontation

Confront *tentatively*

Lk 17:3 So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude
before confrontation

Confront *ready to forgive*
if he responds by repenting—expressed (his
words), not fruit, forgive him.

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude before confrontation

Forgiveness is a promise not to hold the sin up in (1) your own mind, (2) in the other person's face, or (3) in view of other people.

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

Consider your own weakness and attitude
before confrontation

Confront *exhaustively*

How Should Church Discipline be Carried Out?

First: One-on-one (Matt 5:23, 18:15, 23, Lk 17:3)

Second: Bringing one or two other witnesses to confirm the sin and response to confrontation (Matt 18:16)

Third and Fourth: Bring it to the church—first to the elders to confirm (Matt 18:17; Heb 13:17)

Church Discipline

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Two Possible Outcomes

A pair of scales of justice is visible in the background, centered behind the text. The scales are dark and metallic, with two pans hanging from a horizontal beam. The background is a dark, textured gray.

Two Possible Outcomes

**Generous
Restoration**

Generous Restoration



Matt 18:15 “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

2 Cor 2:7-8 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

A pair of scales of justice is visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The scales are dark and metallic, with two pans hanging from a central beam. The background is a dark, textured gray.

Two Possible Outcomes

**Or Being Treated
Like an Unbeliever**

Being Treated Like an Unbeliever



Matt 18:17b ...if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Being Treated Like an Unbeliever

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing balance and justice. The scales are shown in a dark, slightly blurred background, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The scales are positioned behind the text, creating a subtle watermark effect.

God is in agreement with the outcome when
done in a biblical way

Being Treated Like an Unbeliever

Matt 18:18-20 “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Conclusion

The Bible teaches that church discipline has three purposes. The first is to restore and reconcile believers who are falling into sin. The second is to keep sin from spreading to others in the church. The third is protect the purity of the church and the honour of Christ. All worthy motivations. The Bible also gives us examples of sins that were disciplined in the New Testament. These sins have three commonalities: they are publicly known, they continue over a period of time, and they are destructive to the believer and other believers

Conclusion

The Bible also gives us a clear process for church discipline. Christians should restrict information about the sin to the smallest group, apply measures in increasing strength either if someone has sinned against you or if you have sinned against someone else. Christians should confront lovingly, gently, humbly, tentatively, ready to forgive and exhaustively. The two possible outcomes of this process are either generous restoration or being removed from fellowship as an unbeliever.

Conclusion



Church discipline is a very serious process because if a church faithfully follows this process, God agrees with the outcome.