

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-35
Singing: 398:1-3 – 20:1-3 – 224:1, 2, 5 – 449:1-2

Lord's Day 31.85

Intro: Jesus' dearest possession on earth

A. His main two concerns for His body should be ours: **Purity & Unity**

1. To maintain **purity in doctrine & life**: our King instituted discipline-code
a. Biblical preaching: *expounding the Scripture*

b. Biblical discipline: *hold believers accountable to God's Word*

2. To maintain **unity among believers**: our King gave detailed teaching that
unity is not uniformity (Romans 14 -15:7; selections in 1 Cor 10-14)

KEYS OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE

I. PURPOSE II. THE SUBJECTS II. THE METHOD

I. The purpose of Christian discipline: Christian Discipline is never *punishing*
but *discipling (medicine)* James 5:20

II. The subjects of Christian discipline: It applies to 'brothers/sisters in the
body of Christ' (Matt. 18:15; cat. Q. 32) who can fail (1 John 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 5)

III. The method of Christian discipline

A. The **personal level** confrontation (Matt. 18:15)

1. This needs to concern a trespass (sin) against you

2. Is a brother living in sin a 'trespass against me?'

3. Trespasses are sins that can't be covered with love (Prov. 19:11; 1 Pet 4:8)

4. This level is a *personal (or private)* confrontation: Lev. 19:16-18

B. The **brotherly level** confrontation (Matt 18:16)

1. What does the King mean with a **witness**? (Deut. 17:6-7; Matt. 26:61. 71)

a. a witness is not *just a friend* to help your case

b. what qualities are these witnesses to have to assist you?

- wise and impartial: James 3:13, 17
- meek: Gal. 6:1-3
- faithful – man of integrity: Prov. 20:6-7
- committed: Deut. 17:5-7

C. The **corporate level** confrontation (Matt. 18:17)

1. Jesus commands excommunication upon stubborn refusal

D. What are the **final and orderly actions** leading up to excommunication?

1. Step one: *repeated admonition to repent*

2. Step two: *silent censure*

3. Step three is *public censure* consisting of 3 stages

a. first phase: *'nameless' announcement about a brother/sister*

b. second phase: *'named' announcement about a brother/sister*

c. third phase: *final announcement about intended excommunication*

4. Final step: *actual public excommunication* (see Form pages 132-133)

a. wording of Scripture about this act is very solemn: *1 Cor. 5:4-5*

b. withdrawing under admonition of sin is *self-excommunication*

E. After care: *Evangelize rather than socialize* (1 Cor. 5:11)