

Who's In & Who's Out? (1 Corinthians 5)

I. Introduction

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 5, pray, and give a brief summary of chapter

II. Church discipline

- A. Purpose (Jonathan Leeman “*Church Discipline*” Crossway 2012)
1. expose
 2. warn
 3. save
 4. protect
 5. display the glory of Christ by presenting a good witness
- B. How do we know when to discipline?
1. For which sins do we pursue discipline?
 - a. if everyone is a sinner ...?
 - b. place the sin on a *balance against repentance*
 - c. those who are *characteristically acting like unbelievers*
(1 Corinthians 5:11 and 6:9-11)
 2. We share *mutual responsibility* for the *purity* of our fellowship
 - a. examine ourselves at the Lord’s Supper
 - b. The church must be our own “policing unit”
 - c. “*Live and let live*” is NOT a Christian ethic
- C. The “gray areas” of church discipline
1. Neither 1 Corinthians 5 nor Matthew 18 are a complete manual
 2. The church is a living organism
 3. Factors to take into careful consideration
 - a. *culpability* (how long a Christian, how grounded?)
 - b. *background or past of the individual*
 - c. *other parties involved*
 - d. *overall attitude of the individual* (open, grieved, penitent)
 - e. *is this a repeated pattern?*
 4. Church discipline must not be rushed
 - a. *It’s to a man’s glory to overlook an offense* (Pr 19:11, 1Pt 4:8)
 - b. be *gentle, forgiving, non-judgmental*
(Gal 6:1, Matt 18:21, James 1:19, Matt 7:1-2)
- D. How can we know when it’s right to discipline?
1. Sin has a clear *outward manifestation*
 - a. not to say private sins cannot be privately confronted
 2. Sin must be *serious*
 3. Sin must remain *unrepented of*
- E. How do you approach someone who is making sinful choices?
1. Expect sinners to sin (Christians are always tempted)
 2. Gal 6:1-2
 3. Expect a Christian to repent
 4. We do not want to break a bruised reed

III. Restoration – Reaffirming citizenship (evidence of repentance)

- A. Balance compassion with caution