

The Church's Call to Discipline

Jesus's teaching on how to love another – (Part 3 of 4)

Loving one another in the church involves the uncomfortable process of dealing with sin

Matthew 18:15-20

I. Introduction: (from Ken Sande) How church discipline saved a marriage

The broader context of this text in Matthew:

teaching the church how to love one another with a self-denying relentless love that culminates in this process known as “church discipline”

The process requires: privacy, patience, and a goal of restoration

The process can only be appropriately carried out within a local church

II. Exposition of 18:15-20

The condition (15a): *If your brother sins*

The steps (15-17)

A. Private confrontation (15b, Galatians 6:1, James 5: 19-20)

What carnal means do we often do instead?

B. One or two witnesses (16)

What is the purpose of the witnesses?

C. Tell it to the church (17a)

D. Excommunication (17b)

What does excommunication look like, practically?

Church discipline illustrated in 1 Corinthians 5

Failure to discipline is not only arrogant, but puts the whole church at risk

The confidence (18-20)

Context determines meaning

Jonathan Leeman's 5-fold purpose for church discipline:

1) expose, 2) warn, 3) save, 4) protect, 5) present a good witness

III. Case studies of church discipline