

Titus 3:9-11—But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

DISCIPLINE THAT RESTORES AND HEALS

6. A lack of discipline results in four significant LOSS to the church.

- A. A loss of PURITY .
- B. A loss of POWER .
- C. A loss of PROGRESS .
- D. A loss of PURPOSE .

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Discipline that Restores and Heals

1. Carl Laney states, "Church discipline may be broadly defined as the confrontive and corrective measures taken by an individual, church leaders, or the congregation regarding a matter of sin in the life of a believer." Read Matthew 18:15-20 and list the four steps in the church discipline process.
2. The church is similar to a family. What problems occur when there is no discipline in the home? How is the atmosphere of the home affected? What effect does a lack of discipline have on the other children? What happens to a church that allows its family to continue in unrepentant sin?
3. Those who walk in a disorderly manner are to be admonished, warned, and appealed to in LOVE. Read the following scriptures and discuss why it is so important to be loving in discipline.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
Ephesians 4:15

1 Timothy 5:1-2
2 Timothy 4:2

Galatians 6:1-2

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

"The church is called not only to a ministry of reconciliation, but a ministry of nurture to those within her gates. Part of that nurture includes church discipline." —R.C. Sproul

1. The Lord Himself disciplines His CHILDREN .

Hebrews 12:5-11—And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

2. Discipline is based on the HOLY character of God.

1 Peter 1:15-16—...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

3. Discipline is based on the DIVINE commands of Scripture.

1 Timothy 3:16-17—All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4. Discipline upholds the TESTIMONY of the church before the world.

1 Peter 4:17-19—For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?¹⁸ Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

5. Discipline confronts the SINFUL behavior of God’s children.

A. Sins of unbiblical and immoral BEHAVIOR .

2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 13-15—But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.¹⁵ Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

B. Sins of making unbiblical CHOICES .

Ephesians 4:25-32—Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”. do not let the sun go down on your wrath,²⁷ nor give place to the devil.²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

C. Sins between fellow BELIEVERS .

Matthew 18:15-20—“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.¹⁸ “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

D. Sins of people who cause DIVISIONS over doctrine.

Romans 16:17-18—Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.