

Church Discipline

What Is Discipline?

- Discipline is often defined as “the practice of training one to obey rules.”
- To be simply put, discipline is “the action of correcting another.”
- The word “chasten” is often used in the Scriptures in reference to this subject.
(Proverbs 19:18; Hebrews 12:7-11; Revelation 3:19)
- To chasten “is to give instruction or correction.”
- Church discipline can be defined as “the practice of training or correcting a church member who walks disorderly.”

Who In The Church Is Subject To Discipline?

- **One who causes division and offenses contrary to the doctrine of Christ. (Romans 16:17)**
- **A church member who engages in immoral conduct without repentance. (1 Corinthians 5:1-11)**
- **One who walks disorderly. (2 Thessalonians 3:6)**
- **One who teaches error. (1 Timothy 6:3-5)**
- **One who is divisive. (Titus 3:10)**

What Is Involved In Exercising Church Discipline?

- **Those sinning are to be rebuked. (1 Timothy 5:20)**
- **The disobedient one is to be “noted or marked” (i.e. identify them to the whole church as one who is impenitent.) (Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14)**
- **The disobedient are to be “withdrawn from.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:5)**
- **Company is not to be kept with an impenitent member who walks disorderly. (1 Corinthians 5:11)**

How Is Church Discipline To Be Administered?

- Church discipline must be administered in a spirit of “gentleness.” (Galatians 6:1)
- Remember, the disobedient are not to be counted as an enemy. (2 Thessalonians 3:15)
- Out of love discipline must be administered to the disobedient. (Proverbs 3:11-12; Revelation 3:19)
- Church discipline must be administered without partiality. (1 Timothy 5:19-21)
- Discipline is to be administered until repentance, then we are to forgive, comfort, and reaffirm our love to the one who repents. (2 Corinthians 2:6-8)

Why Is Practicing Church Discipline Important?

- **It is commanded. (2 Thessalonians 3:6)**
- **The Scriptures teach that the Lord's church is to be holy, with out blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)**
- **It is also important for the benefit of the one who is walking disorderly. (Hebrews 12:7-11)**
- **To set an example for the rest of the members lest they follow in error, and to likewise promote godly fear. (Acts 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20)**
- **To aid in saving the soul of an erring Christian. (1 Corinthians 5:5; James 5:19-20)**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- **Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)**
- **Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)**
- **Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)**
- **Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)**
- **Be baptized for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)**
- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**