

CORRECTIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Text: 1 Corinthians 5

INTRO: There are 3 types of discipline: instructive, preventative, & corrective. When other forms of discipline have failed to accomplish the purpose meant for them, corrective or punitive discipline must be administered. Such discipline is sometimes needed in the home, in the classroom, in society & even in the church.

I. CORRECTIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS COLLECTIVE ACTION OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION, vs. 4.

READ MATT. 18:15-17

II. CORRECTIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE FOR THE RIGHT PURPOSES.

- A. Not primarily to punish the offender. The church is not basically in the punishment business, tho there IS an element of “punishment” in corrective discipline.

This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought to forgive him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. (2 Cor. 2:6-7).

- B. Not to de-brother him. Only the Lord can remove him from the kingdom & He will not do that till the end of the world, Matt. 13:41.

2 Thess. 3:15

- C. First purpose: Restore him. Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20
1. destroy [the works of] the flesh, 1 Cor. 5:5
 2. That he may be ashamed, 2 Thess. 3:14
 3. That he may learn right behavior, 1 Tim. 1:20

- D. Second purpose: Save the Church from His Evil Influence
1 Cor. 5:6=7; 1 Tim. 5:20; Ananias & Sapphira, Acts 5

- E. A third purpose (implied): As an Example to the World
1 Tim. 3:7. Why???

III. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE

A. Spiritual, 1 Cor. 5:5-8; 1 Tim. 5:20

- 1. Deliver to Satan, mark, note him.

Now I urge you brethren, note those who cause divisions & offenses contrary to the doctrine which you learned & avoid them (Rom 16:17).

NOTE: This is simply to make public recognition that the person being disciplined is in the clutches of Satan & is to be so regarded.

- 2. Let him be to you as a heathen or tax collector,
MT 18:17

- a. Would you speak to him? Be kind to him?
- b. Allow him to attend services?
- c. Allow him to sing, take elements of L.S.?
- d. Allow him a place of leadership? Lead prayer, singing? Serve L.S.?

B. The 2nd aspect of corrective discipline is social. 1 Cor. 5:9-13. READ 2 THESS. 3:6, 14-15

IV. THE BIBLE TELLS WHO TO WITHDRAW FROM.

A. The immoral, 1 Cor. 5:9-11 READ GAL. 5:19-21

B. The factious. Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10; 2 John 9-11

C. Those who walk disorderly. Bums, freeloaders; those who refuse to be guided by clear Biblical principles, 2 Thess. 3:6, 11, 14-15; MT 18:17

NOTE: Many brethren make a broad application of this text. This form of discipline is effective only when the person being disciplined wants to be a part of the congregation & its work.

V. REASONS WHY MANY CONGREGATIONS HAVE NOT PRACTICED DISCIPLINE AS TAUGHT IN THESE SCRIPTURES.

A. Lack of leadership.

1. No elders, or elders in name only.
2. Preachers haven't preached it.
3. Brethren have been afraid it to study the subject, afraid it would require something of them.
4. More concern for "feelings" than for souls.

B. Emphasis in the wrong place. More interested in numbers than in spiritual growth. More afraid of what man will think or do than what God will think or do. Afraid of lawsuits, government intervention, etc.

C. Lack of faith. "It won't work." Two reasons why it often fails to work:

1. Didn't eat with them anyway.
2. Wait too long.

La Porte, TX, January 18, 1976

Burkeville, TX, April 11, 1976 (meeting)

Exton, PA, September 8, 1986

Exton, PA, August 13, 1989

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 14, 2001