

Church Discipline

What is Church Discipline?

- **1 John 2:3–6** - *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

So why is Church Discipline so important?

How do we conduct Church Discipline?

- **Matthew 18:15–17** - *"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*
- **1 Corinthians 5:1–13**

So why do we carry out Church Discipline?

- **Hebrews 12:4–11**

Discussion Questions:

1. When do you think it's necessary to begin the 1st step of discipline? How do we know if it is something we should just overlook?
2. How should we deal with fear in our heart when we're convinced that we should bring up a sinful issue in someone's life, but we're afraid to?
3. Few people enjoy getting confronted with their sin, what Godly character traits are necessary to confront someone in a way that honors both God and the person you're confronting?
4. Can you identify any of these traits as being a weakness in your own heart? How would you go about growing in that area?
5. Do you think you've found the right balance between "overlooking your brother's sin" (Prov. 19:11) and addressing any sin in the lives of those around you? If not, what needs to change?
6. Is there anything you can do in your heart NOW, so that if someone ever has to confront you in sin, you'll increase your chances of responding well?
7. Why do you think God made the final stage of discipline so public? He could have kept it just between a few people?
8. God clearly expects all believers in the church to be ready to call each other to obedience, why do you think He didn't leave it to just the leadership to handle?
9. Given the specific instructions with how to deal with sin in the church, what can we learn about who God is and what He values?