

# Church Discipline

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- Instructions to the church
- Instructions to individual Christians
- The scope of church discipline

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- Instructions to the church (1 Cor. 5, 2 Cor. 2:6-11; Matt. 18:15-17)

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? **Let him who has done this be removed from among you.** 3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 ESV

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

## 2 Corinthians 2:6-11 ESV

6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. 9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. 10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

# Matthew 18:15-17 ESV

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 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.

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  - First, RESTORE (Mat. 18:15; Gal. 6:1; 1 John 5:16; 2 Cor. 2:7-8)

# Matthew 18:15-17 ESV

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

# Galatians 6:1 ESV

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

# 1 John 5:16 ESV

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life--to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

## 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 ESV

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  - First, RESTORE (Mat. 18:15; Gal. 6:1; 1 John 5:16; 2 Cor. 2:7-8)
  - Then, ESCALATE (Mat. 18:16-17)

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- Instructions to individual Christians
  - First, RESTORE (Mat. 18:15; Gal. 6:1; 1 John 5:16; 2 Cor. 2:7-8)
  - Then, ESCALATE (Mat. 18:16-17)
  - Finally, WITHDRAW (Mat. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:9-11; 2 Th. 3:6; 2 Th. 3:14-15; Titus 3:10-11; Rom 16:17-18; 2 Jn. 10-11)

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## 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 ESV

14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, **take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.** 15 **Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.**

## Titus 3:10-11 ESV

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, **have nothing more to do with him,** 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

## 2 John 1:9-11 ESV

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,** 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

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# The Scope of Church Discipline

- Some instructions are very specific
  - Sexual immorality, greed, idolatry, drunkenness, reviling, swindling – 1 Cor. 5:11
  - Refusing to work for a living – 2 Th. 3:6
  - Causing division – Tit. 3:10-11; Rom. 16:17-18

# The Scope of Church Discipline

- Others are very broad
  - Any offense against a brother of which one will not repent – Matt. 18:15
  - Not keeping the teaching of this epistle - 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
  - An extensive list – 2 Tim. 3:1-5
  - Not abiding in the doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9-11

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## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 ESV

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. **Avoid such people.**

## 2 John 1:9-11 ESV

Everyone who goes on ahead and **does not abide in the teaching of Christ**, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

# The Scope of Church Discipline

These broad instructions to withdraw and avoid make it clear that any Christian obligation to which a brother or sister is in open and unrepentant disobedience may result in that Christian being withdrawn from by individual Christians and the church as a whole

# The Scope of Church Discipline

The commands to seek to restore, escalate and withdraw are no less clear than the commands which the erring brother or sister has violated in becoming unfaithful and we must not overlook them –  
“Consider yourself, lest you also be tempted!” – Gal. 6:1

# Recent Disciplinary Actions

- Sexual Immorality – 1 Cor. 5:9-11
- Forsaking the Assembly – Heb. 10:23-27

# Hebrews 10:23-27 ESV

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 **not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,** but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

# Hebrews 10:19-23 ESV

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.