

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Pt. 1

Int.

1. Aim: To present the facts from the Bible about discipline and why we must practice discipline and the purpose.
2. Text - 2 Thes. 3:6-15 v. 6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." - "walketh disorderly"
3. Definition of discipline
 - a. Discipline = training which corrects, molds strengthens, or perfects, to recall one to his senses, admonish, control
 - b. Two kinds of church discipline
 - (1) Instructive teach the word of God so the individual will learn how to live but when instructive discipline does not work we must practice....
 - (2) Corrective ... dealing with those walk disorderly
4. Training is both positive and negative
 - a. We overemphasize the positive method of learning which is always pleasant and satisfying.
 - b. And we ignore the truth that we also learn by unpleasant experiences and even by correction.
 - c. Heb. 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

5. Corrective Discipline was practiced in the early church
 - a. 1 Cor. 5 - he told them to put away and in 2 Cor. 2 he urged them to receive him back.
Why? Because he repented!
 - b. Corrective discipline must also be practiced today.
 - c. When church discipline is not practiced something is wrong. There comes a time in every congregation when church discipline must be practiced.
 - i. If a congregation does not practice discipline then something is wrong with the teaching or leadership or membership.
 - ii. There is not a congregation that does not have some goats show up somewhere along the way. No congregation is made up entirely of good people

6. A church that will not practice church disciplines does not have a right to exist.
 - a. If we leave off any part of the truth then we may as well leave it all off
 - b. If we are not accepting and practicing all of God's divine truth then we are not the Lord's church.
 - c. Rev. 2:5 he warns - "repent or be removed"
 - d. A church will die if they are not following the truth!

DiscussionI. WHY DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE PRACTICED IN THE CHURCHA. [1] God has always disciplined his people

1. God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and barred them from entering into it again by putting a flaming sword at the entrance. Gen. 3:22-24
2. God destroyed the world that was in wickedness and sin. God disciplined his people in the days of Noah - Gen. 7:21

He always has disciplined and He always will !!!!!

3. God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. He told them not to look back. Lot's wife was disciplined by turning back. Why was she turned to a pillar of salt? She disobeyed! Gen. 19:26

He always has disciplined and He always will !!!!!

4. Moses disobeyed God and was disciplined - Num. 20:12
5. Josh 7:1-13 The Israelites were defeated in a battle at Ai. There were 36 men killed. Why? Because they had sin in the camp. It caused the people to lose their battle against the enemy.
6. The same is true today. If we let sin run rampant in the church we will lose our battle against the Devil and sin

B. [2] God disciplined in the early church

1. Acts 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira
2. Anytime we live in sin it is serious business

C. **[3] It is a command of God**

1. 2 Thes. 3:6 - Not an urging but a command
2. Was it optional or was it necessary ?
3. If I preached that we could be saved without being baptized for the remission of sin, you would say that is wrong!
4. The man who rebels against God and refuses to be baptized for the remission of his sins can get just as close to heaven as the man who rebels against the command of 2 Thes. 3:6
5. It is a must to obey Mk. 16:16 as well as 2 Thes. 3:6. If we can eliminate one then we can the other. If not, why not?!
6. Too many have been playing church.
7. Jn. 14:15
 - a. If I love Jesus when he commands me to be
 - (1) Baptized - I'll be baptized
 - (2) Assemble - I'll assemble
 - (3) Withdraw from the disorderly - I'll withdraw fellowship
 - b. Whatever He commands, If I love Him I'll do it and if don't love Him then I want do it.
 - c. Some say "Oh I love Jesus, but we don't have to obey Him."
 - d. You can't love Him and not obey Him. It's impossible!!!

D. [4] We are to put away sin

1. 1 Cor. 5:5-13
 - a. Old leaven - purge out - get it out or it will leaven the whole lump
 - b. Church = let a little sin run rampant and it's not long until a congregation is out of control. That's what's wrong with many congregations today!
 - c. We've winked at sin and said it doesn't make any difference, it's not really important
 - d. But it does make a difference
2. Eph. 5:11
 - a. Can't have fellowship with sin.
 - b. Reprove them.
 - c. It will cause us to lose the battle against sin

E. [5] Mark them and avoid them.

1. Rom. 16:17 **Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.**
2. Mark them - note them which cause divisions
3. Contrary to the doctrine -
4. Avoid them - have no fellowship with them

F. Why practice discipline? Because God always had and he commands us to do so.

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE ?

A. Not to:

1. Not to get rid of someone we dislike - not to get even with someone. Not to kick them out or excommunicate them.
2. Not to say that this individual cannot be saved. He can repent anytime and be saved. He can always return to God and do His will.

B. **[1] The purpose is to maintain the purity of the church.**

1. Rom. 7:4 - the church is the bride
2. Eph. 5:25-27 - it is to be without spot - blemish, wrinkle = holy
3. The church cannot be drug through the mire and muck of sin and be pleasing to God. It is to be pure and spotless.

C. **[2] To Save the church**

1. 1 Cor. 5:6-7 A little leaven
2. Get it out or it will destroy the church. We cannot tolerate sin. If we do something is wrong.
3. We must hate what God hates and love what God loves. If we don't then something is wrong with us.

D. **[3] To Shame the Sinner**

1. II Thes. 3:14 "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."
2. "That he may be ashamed" - this is why we are to withdraw fellowship

3. Ashamed = "a wholesome change which involves a change of conduct" ¹
4. It will hurt anybody who has any conscience.

E. **[4] To save the sinner**

1. 1 Cor. 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
2. Jas. 5:20 "To save a soul from death"
3. Only way to cover sin is the right way and the only right way is to cover it by the blood of Jesus
 - a. The only way to cover sin with the blood of Jesus is to become a Christian
 - b. Then continue to walk in the light
 - c. When we cease to walk in the light we are ceasing to have the blood of Jesus cover our sins.

F. **[5] To teach Christians to live upright**

1. Mat. 5:13-16
 - a. Salt of the earth
 - b. Light of the world
2. Live upright lives - others see Jesus living in us
3. Tit. 2:11-12 "In this present world"

G. **[6] To make the church grow**

1. If we practice discipline the ranks will thin, some say. The church will die!!
2. Acts 5:11-14 Did it die? Or did it grow? The church Grew
3. Acts 5:11 **And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.**
4. When we do what God says and believe His word and are willing to practice it, the church will grow.
5. But when we refuse to do what God says we end up with nothing more than a worshiping society !

H. What is the purpose of church discipline? To save the lost souls and to save the church.

Conclusion

1. Church Discipline is a command of god
2. 2 Thes. 3:6 **"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."**
3. We must obey this command in the church today.
4. We have noticed
 - (1) Why it should be practiced: - God commands it
 - (2) and The purpose of Discipline. - to save souls

5. In other lessons we will study:
 - a. Who should be disciplined?
 - b. The procedure to be followed in Discipline
 - c. How do we treat the ones who have been disciplined
 - d. Excuses for not practicing discipline today.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night April 6, 2008
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