

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Pt. 2

Int.

1. Aim: To show how corrective discipline is to be done and who is to be disciplined.
2. II Thes 3:14-15 "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. 15 Yet count [him] not as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother."
3. These are words from Paul about how we are to practice church discipline
4. Discipline is both preventive and corrective
 - a. The preventive is accomplished by teaching and admonishing each other to do right
 - b. Corrective discipline becomes necessary when a Christian walks disorderly and refuses to repent
5. In our first lesson we discussed two things:
 - a. [1] Why practice discipline? - because God always has disciplined his people, and He always will - today He commands us to practice discipline
 - b. [2]What is the purpose of discipline? - to save the lost, to save the church and to save the world
6. God always has disciplined his people and He always will. Church discipline is good for us - or the Lord would not have commanded it !
7. Corrective church discipline was practiced by the church in the first century.
8. There is a lack of discipline in our society:
 - a. The home - many parents do not discipline their children
 - b. School - society has put restrictions on teachers
 - c. Church - many who profess to be members live in sin and have not repented

9. We will notice: [1] Who needs to be disciplined [2] How it is to be carried out.

Discussion

I. FROM WHOM SHOULD A CHURCH WITHDRAW ?

- A. Some specific sins mentioned in the Bible - 1 Cor. 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a **fornicator**, or **covetous**, or an **idolater**, or a **railer**, or a **drunkard**, or an **extortioner**; with such an one no not to eat."
1. Fornication - every illicit sexual relationship whether married or unmarried
 - a. 1 Cor. 5:1-5
 - b. This man had taken his father's wife - stepmother
 - c. This was sinful - it is sinful today to violate God's rules about marriage, divorce and remarriage - those who do so are to be disciplined
 2. Covetous - one who wishes to have more of a thing than he ought to have -greedy
 - a. Luke 12:15
 - b. 1 Tim. 6:10 (ASV) "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
 - c. Covetousness is a sin which can cause us to lose our soul and we must discipline those who are guilty of this and refuse to repent
 3. Idolater - a worshiper of a false god -
 - a. Col. 3:5-6 "...covetousness which is idolatry...."
 - b. Anything that comes between us and God becomes our god and is wrong !

4. Railer - a man who uses his tongue in an abusive way -
 - a. One who uses vile and filthy language
 - b. Lying, gossip, backbiters, filthy speech
5. Drunkard - intoxicated, one given to alcohol
6. Extortioner - one who takes another's goods by fraud or by force

B. Those who walk disorderly

1. 2 Thes. 3:6 "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."
 - a. The word disorderly means "to deviate from the prescribed order or rule"
 - b. The word is a military term that has reference to a soldier who does not keep the ranks. He is out of step.
 - c. It means any member who by their lives are out of step with God's rules is walking disorderly. Living contrary to the rules of Christ !
 - d. Any brother out of step is not doing the will of God or that is breaking the will of God ought to be withdrawn from, because he is not walking in harmony with truth revealed.
2. This would cover any sin
 - a. Gal. 5:19-21
 - b. Any sin mentioned here in which a child of God engages is grounds for withdrawing of fellowship
 - c. They are not walking in harmony with the teachings of God's divine revelation

C. Busybodies

1. 2 Thes. 3:11-15 "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies."
2. Walk disorderly - but are busybodies
3. Those who refuse to work and are busybodies - therefore are subject to be withdrawn from

D. Those who cause division

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. Marking - avoid - corrective church discipline

E. Those who spread false doctrine

1. I I John 9-11 v. 10 "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:"
 - a. If a man brings false doctrine
 - b. Not to be received - not to be accepted into fellowship
 - c. If we bid godspeed to him we are a partaker of his evil deeds
 - d. If we encourage, abate or aid we are a partaker of his evil deeds
 - e. He needs to be corrected or withdrawn from so he will not be recognized as in fellowship with the church.
2. Rom. 16:17 - offenses contrary to doctrine.

F. Those who are unfaithful to God.

1. This gets close to home!!! We talk about withdrawing from an immoral person and brethren say "amen". We talk about withdrawing from a false teacher and the brethren will say "amen".
2. But when we get closer to home and discuss withdrawing from the unfaithful the brethren quit saying amen.
3. Those who are unfaithful in attendance are subject to be withdrawn from
 - a. Heb. 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
 - b. When a Christian willfully and deliberately fails to assemble with the saints he is unfaithful to Paul's admonition and therefore he can be withdrawn from.
 - c. If you think it is nobody's business when you forsake the services you better think again.
 - d. The Bible teaches we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together and if you are in violation of what the Bible teaches and out of step with God you are walking disorderly.
 - e. The brethren have every right to withdraw fellowship. That's the Truth!!!
4. We are out of step when we do not use our talents for the kingdom of God.
 - a. Matt. 25:14-30
 - b. One talent man was cast out and called a wicked servant
 - c. If we are not using our talents for the good of the kingdom of God and for the spread of his kingdom we are out of step with God and walking disorderly. Therefore we are lost whether people are aware of it or not.

5. Have you ever heard a member say "what I give is nobody's business." ?
 - a. When you read the Bible it says a man who is covetous man with such an one not to eat - 1 Cor. 5
 - b. If I'm not giving of my means the way that I should give of my means then I'm a covetous man.
 - c. If the church knows that I'm a covetous man then they ought to withdraw fellowship from.
 - d. This is true of any member of the church.

G. Summary

1. The church has the right, the obligation and the responsibility of using corrective discipline on any member of the church who persists in any sin that they know of that they will not repent of, no matter what it is.
2. Whether its drunkenness, immorality, covetousness, idolatry, or railing that person who refuses to repent is subject to discipline.
3. Any sin that the member of the church is engaging in and the brethren know it and they try to bring him out of it and he will not repent then there is reason for withdrawing fellowship.
4. Refusal to repent and get right with God is an indication they are walking disorderly, out of step with God, and therefore they ought to be dealt with!!

II. WHAT PROCEDURE IS TO BE FOLLOWED ?

- A. The whole church must be taught and involved
1. We must all understand and know what the Bible says and demands on this subject -
This is something the church does, not just the elders
 2. Every member needs to learn the truth from the Bible about corrective church discipline - we need to be reminded of this truth just like all others
- B. The certainty of guilt must be ascertained
1. The withdrawal of fellowship is not a small thing and great harm is done if one presumed to be guilty is innocent
 2. 1 Tim. 5:19 "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."
 3. Though this is directed to elders, this is a principle that would apply to all!
 4. We must be sure of the facts before we practice discipline !
- C. Prayer should be made in their behalf that they would repent
1. We should never forget to pray for one another
 2. 1 John 5:16 "If any man see his brother sin a sin [which is] not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

- D. The unruly should be confronted and warned concerning his fault
1. 1 Thes. 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."
 2. Unruly - walking disorderly
 3. We are to warn them - warn means to put in mind, to caution or reprove
- E. Every effort should be made to restore a person to turn him from the error of his way
1. The procedure in Matt. 18:15-17 concerns personal offenses between brethren.
 - a. But this is a reasonable course of action to follow in other sins as well.
 - b. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [it] unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."
 2. Go to him alone
 - a. Go to the person and talk about their soul and their problem with sin
 - b. It is possible that we would try privately many times before we go to the next step...
 3. If one does not repent after discussing the problem with them, take one or two more.
 - a. This will show the gravity of the situation
 - b. The admonition of one person may be shrugged off but when several come at once it will be seen as a serious matter.

4. If they still do not repent, tell it to the church where everyone can make an effort to restore them.
 - a. This is not the announcement of withdrawal, but it is one step before
 - b. Some kind of public announcement is made to the assembled church - explain to them what has been done up to this point
 - c. Then ask all the members to pray for the individual and try to bring them to repentance.
5. If they still refuse to repent, withdrawal of fellowship is the final step in an effort to lead them to repentance.

F. It must be done without partiality

1. Some have really caused problems
 - a. Some old poor boy who people don't think much about who is walking disorderly will be withdrawn from in short order.
 - b. But if its someone real dignified, has a little money or education, they say wait just a minute. We will wait a long time before we deal with him.
2. God makes no difference between us. All are on equality whether learned or unlearned, rich or poor, high in society or low in society. The bible is the same for every one of us.
3. Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him ."
4. God will not bend his rules for me or for you. We have to do what it says regardless of who we are or what kind of standing we have in life.

5. James 2:1 and James 3:17
 - a. God does not make a distinction between us
 - b. The same gentleness, severity, consideration, same work and effort are to be put in on the socialite as well as the person who is not well thought of in society.

6. 1 Tim. 5:20-21 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge [thee] before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.
 - a. Are we partial ? Do we show respect of persons?
 - b. Some poor boy would be taken care of real soon but if Mr. So and So walks disorderly, then it is going to take a long time to decide about Him.

7. All are entitled to the same consideration.

CONCLUSION

1. Church discipline is a very serious business
2. It must be practiced to save: The erring brother The church Ourselves
3. We have noticed two things in our lesson tonight:
 - a. From Whom should we withdraw. - - any brother who walks disorderly and refuses to repent
 - b. Procedures to follow in discipline - in prayer without partiality
4. Conduct your life in such a way that corrective church discipline will never be used with you!!!

5. In future lessons we will discuss
 - a. How do we treat the ones who have been disciplined
 - b. Excuses for not practicing discipline today

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