

Church Discipline

2 Thess 3:6-14

Introduction:

- A. Two things have weakened church in recent years.
 - 1. Lack of old fashioned plain gospel preaching.
 - 2. Lack of church discipline (Ill. Road commissioner and farmer's heifer)
- B. "Discipline?"
 - 1. Can refer to all correction – teaching, rebuking, etc.
 - 2. Usually refers to "withdrawing fellowship" from a member.
 - 3. Never pleasant – often profitable (cf. Heb. 12:11).
- C. In this lesson we notice several aspects of church discipline.

Discussion:

I. The *Person to Be Disciplined*.

- A. A brother – member of church the local church (1 Cor. 5:11-13; 2 Thess. 3:6)
- B. A brother who walks disorderly. (2 Thess. 3:6).
 - 1. "Disorderly" = Breaks rank, undisciplined., rebellious spirit.
 - 2. "Disorderly" – general term covering specific cases (Some say only covers idleness)
 - 3. "Walk" indicates continuous practice – not occasional isolated acts. (cf. Rom. 8:4; 2 Cor. 5:7; Eph. 2:10; 1 John 1:7).
- C. Thus, one who turns to a life of habitual sin, not mere weak brother.
 - 1. Fornicator at Corinth (1 Cor. 5).
 - 2. Stubborn and impenitent (Mt. 18:15-18).
 - 3. Factious person (Rom. 16:17-18; Tit 3:10) – Note: doctrine involved.
 - 4. Lazy busy bodies (2 Thess 3:6-14).
 - 5. What about forsaking assembling? (Heb. 10:25-29) – Is this not walking disorderly?

II. The *Plan for Discipline*.

- A. Before it gets to the church (Matt. 18:15-18)
- B. After it gets to the church.
 - 1. Every effort to persuade repentance before final withdrawal.
 - a. Matt. 18:15-18 – "If he will not hear the church" indicates efforts to persuade.
 - b. Titus 3:10 – "After ... admonition."
 - c. 1 Thess. 5:14 – "warn" then later "withdraw" (2 Thess. 3:6)
 - 2. After other efforts fail – then withdraw or "deliver to Satan" (cf. 1 Cor. 5:4,5).

III. The *Purposes of Discipline*.

- A. To save the soul (1 Cor. 5:5).
- B. To shame to repentance (2 Thess. 3:14; cf. 2 Cor. 7:9).
- C. To purify the church (1 Cor. 5:6-8, 13).

IV. The *Penalty of Discipline*.

- A. Excluded from normal association (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Thess. 3:14,15; Rom. 16:17).
 - 1. Not mere refusal to use in services – what of those never used anyway?
 - 2. Not merely dropped from the "church directory."
 - 3. But, no social mixing and mingling.
- B. Not Excluded from all contact, but admonished (2 Thess. 3:15).

Conclusion:

- A. Discipline is not an option, it is a command (2 Thess. 3:6).
- B. Discipline is not for the weak and struggling, who occasionally slips up.

C. Discipline is for the brother/sister who turns to a life of sin – persists in sin in spite of admonitions.