

INTRO: Why Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Titus 3:10-11; and Heb. 12:5-11?

How is correction and/or discipline related to our summer series on personal holiness, our corporate witness, and progressive sanctification?

The goal of all discipline is God's glory, the Church's gospel witness, the repentant sinner's restoration, and the believer's supreme good!

8 Principles to Help Us Understand and Faithfully Apply Today's Sermon on *Biblical Discipline*

1) Our heavenly Father cares far more about our personal holiness & our _____ than we do!

(Hebrews 12:5-11; James 1:2-4; Revelation 2-3)

2) By redefining morality and biblical _____, people confuse right from wrong and love for hate.

(Hebrews 12:5-11; Prov. 13:24; 23:13-14)

3) Tragically, James 5:19-20, Hebrews 12:5-11, and Matthew 18:15-17 are three of the most neglected verses in the Bible.

4) The goal of all discipline is God's glory, the Church's gospel witness, the repentant sinner's restoration, and the believer's highest good!

(Matthew 18:15-17; Hebrews 12:10-11; Proverbs 22:15)

5) Serious sin must be taken seriously and, in some instances, be dealt with _____.

(Titus 3:10-11; 1:10-11; Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 5:6-13; 3 John 1:9-10; Numbers 14, 16)

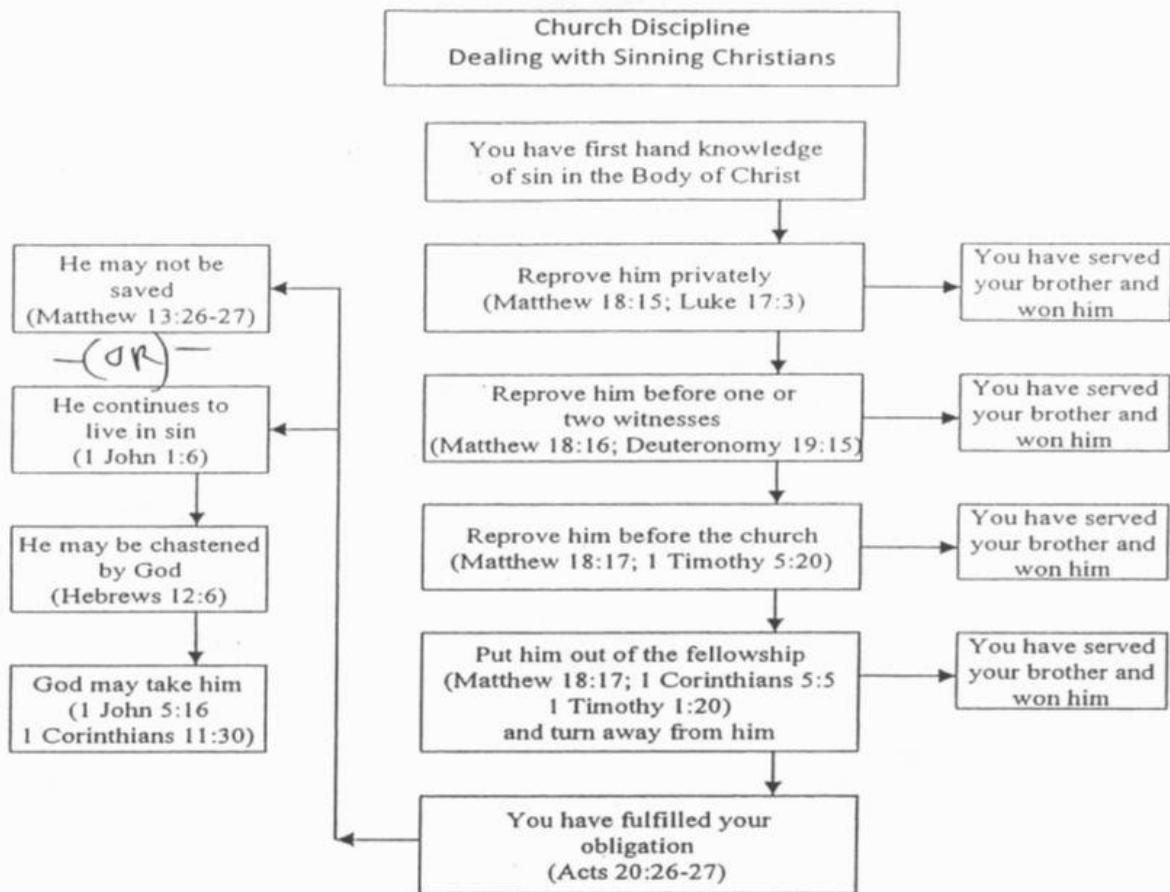
6) The chief goal of biblical confrontation is the _____ of a professing Christian that has fallen into sin!

(Matthew 18:15b; Luke 17:3; 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11; 2 Samuel 12)

7) Church discipline is **not** intended to correct minor issues like my husband's anxiety problem causes him to _____.

8) Church discipline is **not** designed for believers who are actively battling _____

(Romans 7:14-25)



1. Private confrontation v. 15
2. Witnesses v.16
3. Tell the church v. 17
4. Remove from church v.17

To help apply God's Word to your daily walk, spend some time going over the study guide on pp 3-4.

For Further Reflection: *Lord help us to be doers of the Word and not just sermon connoisseurs*

How did the Scriptures and today's sermon encourage, challenge, and/or convict you? What do you want to study further as a result of the message?

Review the 8 Biblical Principles that were highlighted during today's sermon.

Correction/discipline is a major point of emphasis in Scripture. How are the messages related to our summer series on personal holiness, our corporate witness (Eph. 5:27), and progressive sanctification?

What are the unintended consequences of neglecting or ignoring passages of Scripture like James 5:19-20, Hebrews 12:5-11, and Matthew 18:15-17? Note also Prov. 23:13-14.

When the Bible says that if you don't warn someone of this or do that, "Their blood will be on your hands." What does God mean? How so? (note Ezekiel 3:18-19; Acts 17:30-31; Acts 20:26-32) How do you know when to involve yourself in a situation and when Proverbs 26:17 applies?

The Scriptures must govern our emotions/feelings. What happens when they don't? Read Luke 17:3-4; Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:19-20. Matt. 7:1-5; Jude 22-23; Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-14. The Word must guide our relational interactions. When relationships take precedence over the precepts of Scripture and our primary relationship with the Lord Jesus, they've become idolatrous; (note Matt. 10:36-38; 1 Jn 5:21).

How does the biblical (true) story of Job, Romans 8:28-29; James 1:2-4; and especially, Hebrews 12:5-11 underscore the first two biblical principles mentioned in today's sermon? What is *preventative* discipline (Ps. 119:71; James 1:2-4)? How is it different from *corrective* discipline (Galatians 6:7-9; Prov. 13:24) How does God's discipline demonstrate that we belong to Him and that He truly loves us?

Why do wise, obedient, and loving parents discipline their children? Why do some parents not faithfully correct/discipline their children? Why do Christian parents often say to their children while providing informative (biblical) instruction and corrective discipline, "This hurts me more than it hurts you?" Quickly read aloud Proverbs 9:8; 12:1; 13:1, 24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15 and Galatians 4:16.

Whenever there is doctrinal confusion or relational challenges believers must take it to the Lord in prayer and ask the Spirit to guide our steps according to the wisdom of Christ and the precepts of Holy Scripture.

Related reading- Pastor John MacArthur's, *The Jesus You Can't Ignore: What You Must Learn from the Bold Confrontations of Christ*. Read Revelation 2-3 to see a firsthand account of how the Perfect Savior-King and Lord of the Church commends, corrects, warns, and encourages seven local churches.

Are these two quotes biblical: "It is misleading to say that God accepts us the way we are. Rather He accepts us (in Christ) despite the way we are." "God loves us in Christ as we are, but He also loves us too much to leave us as we are." Note Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 3:11-12; 20:30; Romans 8:28-29.

Throughout the Scriptures the Holy Spirit reminds us that if someone wanders off the path in creed or in deed, a kind and loving soul will reach out and correct that wandering soul in effort to rescue them!

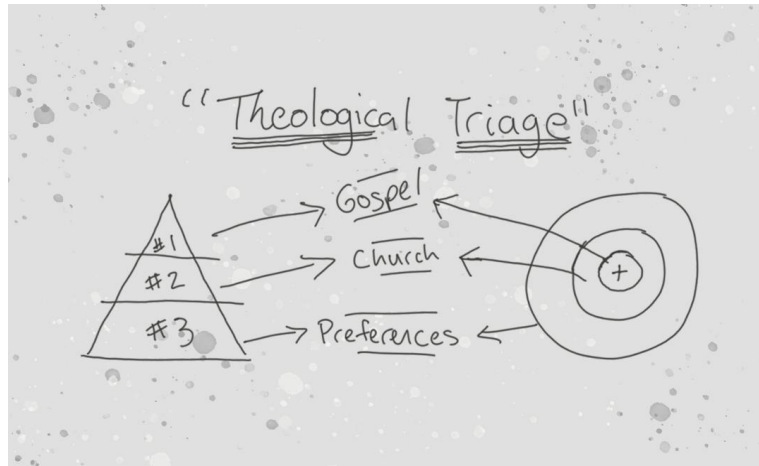
Read Numbers 14, 16. Serious sin must be taken seriously and, in some instances, be dealt with swiftly; see Titus 3:10-11; 1:10-11; Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 5:6-13; 3 John 1:9-10:

Like any biblical/good thing, biblical correction and formal church discipline can be abused and it can be neglected and/or completely ignored. Did your childhood church abuse Matthew 18:15-17 or ignore it?

Talk about the practical implications of principles 7 and 8. With that said, how can a "small" sin turn into a much more serious issue? Talk about the importance of humility and repentance; (note Psalm 32 & 51).

2024 Summer Sermon Series

We recently discussed how *Theological Triage* helps protect and unite the church of God and how it can be abused if we're not careful.



8 Guiding Principles to Help Us Apply Theological Triage

- 1) Be wise! Understand the difference between primary and secondary doctrines.
- 2) Be humble! Don't throw the Christian baby out with the bath water; (or die on the wrong hill)!
- 3) Be discerning! Swallow the biblical meat and spit out the fatty gristle and bones.
- 4) Beware! While all errors are bad, certain errors are far more harmful/dangerous.
- 5) Be balanced! Just because *no one* has perfect theology this side of eternity, does *not* excuse biblical illiteracy, laziness in sanctification, or indifference towards unbiblical teaching!
- 6) Be diligent! We (especially we pastors and teachers) need to *work hard* and be *very careful* when interpreting and applying the perfect Word of Truth! (2 Tim. 2:15; Ezra 7:10; Joshua 1:8; James 1:21-25)
- 7) Be prayerful! Church leaders must wisely determine to *what degree* interpretive or applicational error harms the unity, mission, and/or testimony of their flock. (1 Cor. 11:1-16; 1 Tim. 2:9-3:1-2; Heb. 13:17)
- 8) Be careful! Secondary errors can lead to major errors and even outright heresies. (note 7/21 sermon)

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