





# Church Discipline

*Proverbs 3:11-12*

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## Anyone Named a Brother

- *“withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly... do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”* (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 15)
- Paul makes special note of this in the Corinthian letter – 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
- Children of God who continue in sin are in grave danger – Hebrews 10:26-27; 2 Peter 2:20-22

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## The Disorderly

- Man's wisdom does not decide which sins are severe enough for the response of discipline.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14** – Disorderly – *ataktōs* (adverb) – “(1) disorderly, out of ranks (often so of soldiers) (3) deviating from the prescribed order or rule” (THAYER) (cf. **1 Thessalonians 5:14**; **2 Thessalonians 2:15**)

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## The Disorderly

- The insubordinate and disobedient – cf. Colossians 3:17
- All sin is disorderliness/unruliness – 1 John 3:4
- **This covers ALL sin!** – Forsaking assembly? (Hebrews 10:25); Refusing to participate in church discipline? (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14)

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## The Interpersonal Offender

- Sin against another brother – **Matthew 18:15-17** – lying, slander, gossip, cheating, stealing, etc.
- “Puffed up” – **cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2** – Sticks and stones wisdom does not apply here – “You can’t help what others think or say about you.”
- Makes a mockery of God – **1 Peter 1:15-16; Proverbs 6:16-19**

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## The Interpersonal Offender

- These sins are harmful by definition – Romans 13:8-10
- These sins are against Christ – 1 Corinthians 8:12
- These sins threaten the unity of the body – 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 11:17-18; Galatians 5:14-15, 26; Philippians 4:2-3; Ephesians 4:1-3

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## The Sower to the Flesh

- Paul's words were inclusive of any work of the flesh – 1 Corinthians 5:10-11; 6:9-11
- None are to be named among the saints – Ephesians 5:3-4, 11-13 (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1)
- Church discipline is the necessary reaction to ANY work of the flesh – Galatians 5:16-6:10

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## **The False Teacher and the Divisive One**

- Paul disciplined false teachers – 1 Timothy 1:18-20
- Must be stopped – 2 Timothy 2:16-18; Titus 1:9-11
- Must not be tolerated – 2 John 9-11
- Divisive people are to be disciplined even if the division is not a result of doctrinal error – Titus 3:10-11; Proverbs 6:16-19; Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 16:17-18

# Recipients of Church Discipline

## The Elder Who Continues in Sin

- Elders take the lead in church discipline, but they are not exempt from it – **1 Timothy 5:17-20**
- Paul warned the Ephesian elders of elders who would be corrupt – **Acts 20:29-30**



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