

A photograph of a person wearing a blue t-shirt, sitting with their head buried in their arms in a gesture of distress or grief. A hand from another person is placed on their right shoulder, offering comfort. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting. The image is overlaid with a teal and blue painterly texture.

Church Discipline

Proverbs 3:11-12

Participants in Church Discipline

The Individual (self)

- Self-discipline is the starting point, and would eliminate the need for church discipline if all applied it – 1 Cor. 11:31-32; Mark 8:34; 2 Cor. 13:5; James 1:21-23; 1 Cor. 9:27
- Self-discipline comes prior to disciplining others – Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 17:3; Galatians 6:1-5; Acts 20:28

Participants in Church Discipline

The Individual (interpersonal)

- Interpersonal discipline is a responsibility given by the Lord to each of us – **Matthew 18:15-16;**
Galatians 6:1
- Interpersonal discipline is what love dictates – **1 Corinthians 13:6; 1 Peter 4:8; James 5:19-20**
 - With mourning, not pride – **1 Corinthians 5:2; 1 Samuel 15:35; Ezra 10:6; 2 Corinthians 2:3-4**

Participants in Church Discipline

The Elders

- God's organization of the local church includes bishops (overseers; also, elders & shepherds) –
Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5
 - They rule – 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 5:17; Hebrews 13:7, 17
 - **They have the responsibility of overseeing church discipline.**

Participants in Church Discipline

The Elders

- “*pay careful attention to...all the flock*” (Acts 20:28, ESV) (cf. 1 Peter 5:1-2)
 - Protecting the flock – “*Be on guard for...all the flock*” (Acts 20:28, NASB) (cf. Titus 1:7-13)
 - Judging the spiritual state of members via evidence, and the effect on the congregation – 1 Corinthians 5:2-3, 6-8, 12-13

Participants in Church Discipline

The Elders

- “*tell it to the church*” (Matthew 18:17) (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:4-5)
 - Elders in every church give account for the souls in the church, and the state of the congregation as a whole – Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-4

Participants in Church Discipline

The Elders

- “*tell it to the church*” (Matthew 18:17) (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:4-5)
 - Necessarily implies the elders being told, who in oversight of the church then tell it to the church, and lead in the process of enforcing church discipline.

Participants in Church Discipline

The Church

- “*tell it to the church*” (Matthew 18:17) – to involve them in the effort of restoration.
 - Equally applies to the final step – “*let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector*” (v. 17b)
 - Action taken when the church is assembled – 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 7, 11, 13 (cf. 2 Thess. 4:6, 13-14; Romans 16:17-18)

Participants in Church Discipline

The Church

- “*tell it to the church*” (Matthew 18:17) – to involve them in the effort of restoration.
 - It is an action that is part of the elders’ rule, and must be submitted to – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17
 - To refuse is to be disciplined – 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- Foundations for answering:
 - Love Lord > Love Family – Luke 14:26; Matt. 10:37
 - Spiritual Family > Physical Family – Matt. 12:47-50
 - Lord's promise of conflict in family – Matt. 10:34-36
 - Must not show partiality in discipline – James 2:1; 1 Timothy 5:21

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- The church is commanded to withdraw – **Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5** – collective noun including every member.
- “*every brother*” (**2 Thessalonians 3:6**) includes “*every brother*” who is a physical family member as well – **if not, why not?**

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- Exceptions?
 - No contradictory commands – EX: 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8; Hebrews 10:25 – one does not negate the other.

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- Is there an exception?
 - **Spouses** (YES) – 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; 1 Peter 3:7; Genesis 2:23 – conjugal obligations, dwell together, one flesh.

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- Is there an exception?
 - **Parents to children** (NO) – Christian? (included); not excluded in OT (cf. Deut. 21:18-20); Grown? (independent); Dependent? (corrected by force)
 - **Children to parents** (NO) – obedience “*in the Lord*” (Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1); Honor? (Eph. 6:2; Matt. 15:4 – greater honor than saving soul?)

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- Is there an exception?
 - **Other and Extended family** (NO) (sibling, aunt/uncle, cousin, nephew/niece, etc.)
 - **Numbers 16** – Korah was Moses' 1st cousin.
 - **Numbers 12** – Aaron and Miriam were Moses' siblings.

Participants in Church Discipline

Must family members withdraw from each other?

- “Church discipline won’t be effective unless we have built close relationships in love for one another.”

Who would have a greater impact than family?!

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