

October 25, 2020
I Corinthians 5:1-5
Tough Love

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

CHURCH DISCIPLINE:

- I. Always has restoration as the ultimate goal.
- II. Only to be used when all else fails.
- III. Act of love toward the offender in order that he/she would repent of sin and have fellowship restored with the Lord and the local assembly.
- IV. To be done by the entire congregation, see **I Timothy 5:20**.

Church discipline is not too often heard of these days. God's people are losing the concept of the holiness of God and the importance of a pure church, believers determined to do all they can to keep the the bride of Christ pure against the day of her presentation. There needs to be a return to the sense of meaningful church membership and a purified church. *Paige Patterson*

No church is perfect, but human imperfection must never be an excuse for sin. Just as parents must discipline their children in love, so local churches must exercise discipline over the members of the assembly. Church discipline is not a group of "pious policemen" out to catch a criminal. Rather, it is a group of brokenhearted brothers and sisters seeking to restore an erring member of the family. *W. W. Wiersbe*

APPLICATION:

From the outset the church has had a need for church discipline. A major passage regarding this is found in the book of **Matthew 18:15-17**. This instruction is from Jesus. There is an order to this process. First go to the person and try to reason with them about what is going on. Second, if they will not listen to reason, carry two or three brothers with you to talk with and reason with the wayward church member. Finally, if they will not listen to reason, carry the offender before the church. Hopefully there will be repentance and restoration. If not, the erring person is to lose their church member privileges, this is church discipline. Now keep in mind that the goal is ALWAYS repentance and restoration of the sinning brother.

This is, believe it or not, an act of love on behalf of the church members. They are saying, we love you too much to let you just continue in your sin unchallenged by the teachings of Scripture. And, we love the Lord too much to let you continue sinning and bringing shame to the church and ultimately the Lord by allowing you to continue like this.

This is a last resort but unfortunately too many churches make the decision not to exercise church discipline when it is truly due. Paul does not dwell as much on the man himself as he does on the attitude of the church. Purity of the church is so important.