



**ECCLESIOLOGY**

## A Working Definition

“The corrective measures taken by an individual, church leaders, or the congregation regarding a matter of sin in the life of a believer.”



# Church Discipleship

## Deconstruction of Discipline and Church Dynamics

19<sup>th</sup> Century

20<sup>th</sup> Century

Present Day

**Church Discipline, Sin, and Shame**



# Church Discipleship

## Three Realities of Church Discipline

1. It is a very difficult area of doctrine
2. It is hard to practice
3. It is sourced in the authority of Scripture
  - 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13
  - MATTHEW 18:17-18
  - TITUS 3:10
  - 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15
  - 1 TIMOTHY 5:20
  - GALATIANS 6:1



# Church Discipleship

## Why is Church Discipline So Important?

### 1. To maintain of Gospel Integrity

- **1 PETER 4:13-19**

<sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.



# Church Discipleship

## Why is Church Discipline So Important?

### 1. To maintain of Gospel Integrity

- **1 PETER 4:13-19**

<sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.



# Church Discipleship

## Why is Church Discipline So Important?

1. To maintain of Gospel Integrity
2. To keep the Church distinct from the world

- **2 CORINTHIANS 6:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, <sup>18</sup> and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

- **1 PETER 2:11-18; 3:8-16; 4:1-4**



# Church Discipleship

## Why is Church Discipline So Important?

### 3. To appropriately reflect God's holiness

- We do this through **living, worship, and belief**

- **LEVITICUS 11:44a**

<sup>44</sup> For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

- **DEUTERONOMY 7:6**

<sup>6</sup> “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”





# Church Discipleship

## Why is Church Discipline So Important?

### 4. To give evidence of God's redemptive work

- **2 CORINTHIANS 7:1**

<sup>1</sup> Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- **1 PETER 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> ...since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."



# Church Discipleship

## Church Discipline and Formation



*Ministry of  
Reconciliation*

*Sanctification  
and Edification*



**Church Discipline**



# Church Discipleship

## The Goal of Church Discipline

1. Protect the holy character of God
2. Edify and restore the individual
  - **2 THESSALONIANS 3:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. <sup>15</sup> Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.
3. Protect the unity and purity of the flock
4. Protect the testimony of the flock



# Church Discipleship

## The Goal of Church Discipline

5. Create fear in the rest of the flock as a warning against sin

- **1 TIMOTHY 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.



# Church Discipleship

## The Spirit of Church Discipline

1. Discipline must be done by those walking in the Spirit and growing in the Lord
  - **GALATIANS 6:1** – Evidence is Prayer.
2. Discipline must be done in a spirit of love, humility, gentleness and patience
  - **GALATIANS 6:1-2; 2 TIMOTHY 2:24-25**
3. Discipline must be done without bias
  - **1 TIMOTHY 5:21**



# Church Discipleship

## The Spirit of Church Discipline

4. Those who walk disorderly are to be admonished, warned, and appealed to in love
  - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:14-15; 1 TIMOTHY 5:2; EPHESIANS 4:15; 2 TIMOTHY 4:2; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6, 14-15; TITUS 3:10
5. Discipline must maintain a readiness to forgive
  - 2 CORINTHIANS 6:8



# Church Discipleship

## The Pattern of Proper Discipline

### MATTHEW 18:15-17

<sup>15</sup>If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.



# Church Discipleship

## The Pattern of Proper Discipline

### MATTHEW 18:15-17

1. Private confrontation
2. Include a witness
3. Share with the Church
4. If still no repentance, then, sadly, only recourse is separation from the sinning brother





# **Church Discipleship**

## **The Pattern of Proper Discipline**

**Do we have the authority to discipline?**

**The Power of Keys**



# Church Discipleship

## The Pattern of Proper Discipline

### Do we have the authority to discipline?

#### The Power of Keys

### MATTHEW 16:19, 18:18

**16:19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed<sup>[a]</sup> in heaven.”

**18:18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.



# Church Discipleship

## The Pattern of Proper Discipline

### What about a Church Leader in sin?

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-20

JAMES 3:1



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### Pure Doctrine

- **2 PETER 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 1. Pure Doctrine

- 2 PETER 2:1
- 2 TIMOTHY 2:17-18

### Also:

- GALATIANS 1:8-9
- 1 TIMOTHY 1:20
- REVELATION 2:14-16
- PHILIPPIANS 3:2-3, 15-19
- ROMANS 16:17-18



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 2. Personal and Community Integrity

- **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15**

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,<sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 2. Personal and Community Integrity

- **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15**

<sup>9</sup> It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 2. Personal and Community Integrity

- **2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15**

<sup>13</sup> As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. <sup>14</sup> If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. <sup>15</sup> Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.





# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 2. Personal and Community Integrity

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### Also:

- **1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11**
- **1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-7**



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 3. Purity of Unity

The most visible expression of Christ is our unity

- **ROMANS 16:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 3. Purity of Unity

The most visible expression of Christ is our unity

- ROMANS 16:17-18
- TITUS 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, <sup>11</sup> knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.



# Church Discipleship

## The Main Categories of Church Discipline

### 3. Purity of Unity

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**Also:**

- MATTHEW 5:23-24
- 1 CORINTHIANS 11:26-29



# Church Discipleship

## Conclusion

We must recognize that church discipline is not merely **PUNISHMENT**. Rather, it is designed to **RETRAIN** and **RESTORE**.



# Church Discipleship

## Conclusion

1. To bring glory to God and enhance the testimony of the flock.
2. To restore, heal, and build up sinning believers.
3. To produce a healthy faith, one sound in doctrine.
4. To win a soul to Christ, if the sinning person is only a professing Christian.
5. To silence false teachers and their influence in the church.



# Church Discipleship

## Conclusion

6. To set an example for the rest of the body and promote godly fear
7. To protect the church against the destructive consequences that occur when churches fail to carry out church discipline.





# ECCLESIOLOGY