

THE END OF DISCIPLINE

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

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I. THE END OF DISCIPLINE (2:5-9)

A. Discipline Provoked (5)

1. Why is church discipline necessary?

- a. in order to maintain a proper witness to the world (1 Cor. 5:1)
- b. to help the unrepentant sinner (Heb. 12:3-7)
- c. to preserve unity in the body (Eph. 4:1-16)
- d. to deter others from falling (1 Tim. 5:20)
- e. to halt the spread of false teaching (Rev. 1-3)

2. In what instances or for what sins should it be exercised?

- a. unrepentant moral evil (1 Cor. 5)
- b. divisiveness and serious doctrinal error (Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 3:9-10)

The key here is perseverance in sin or false teaching, without repentance.

3. What procedural steps are to be taken?

- a. Private approach (Mt. 18:15) - speak gently, in love, out of compassion, seeking to encourage; the purpose for private rebuke is to resolve the problem without fueling unnecessary gossip.

- b. Plural approach - only if (a) has not worked (Mt. 18:16; also Deut. 17:6; 19:15)
- c. Elders Approach (Dt. 21-22, 25; Acts 15; 16:4; Tt. 3:10; 1 Peter 5:1-5)
- d. Steps Taken (hearing all sides, admonition, barring from table, excommunication). (Mt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:2, 11, 13; Titus 3:10; possibly 2 Thess. 3:14)

B. Discipline Accomplished (6)

Paul says: Discipline has accomplished its purpose!

RESTORATION!

C. Discipline for Restoration (7-8)

Three steps:

1. Forgive
2. Comfort
3. Reaffirm Love

D. Discipline: a Test of Maturity (9)

II. THE STRATEGY OF DISCIPLINE (2:10-11)

A. Reconciliation and Peace in the Church

B. Reconciliation and Peace: Defeating Satan