

The Anatomy of the Church—Internal Systems, Part 4

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. We do not want the church to be mechanical or outwardly religious.
- B. The heart of the ministry is laying inward attitudes.

II. Self-discipline.

- A. This is saying no to sin and yes to righteousness.
- B. We have been called as Christians to run a race. To win we must be self-disciplined in all things. (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- C. One must know where he is going in order to stay within the limits.
- D. We are engaged in a real battle with demons and we must be prepared. Our thinking must be saturated with the Word of God. (Ephesians 6, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Philippians 4:8)

III. Accountability.

- A. We are all accountable to each other. (Matthew 7:3-4)
- B. One has an obligation of addressing sin in another believer's life. (Matthew 18, Galatians 2)
- C. A church cannot survive unless there is forgiveness. (Matthew 6:12, Ephesians 4:32)
- D. Only humble people forgive.

Application Questions:

1. What areas could you use greater self-discipline in? What steps can you take?

2. Why is self-discipline so difficult to maintain? How can one grow in consistency?

3. What are some objections to accountability? How would you respond to those objections?
