

The Discipline of God's Children, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 18:15-20.
- B. The holiness of the church is the desire of God. (1 Peter 1:16)
- C. We ought to be equally concerned about sin.
- D. Churches rarely discipline members.
- E. There has to be enforcing of expectations in the family of God. God disciplines us with external consequences. (Proverbs 3:11; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; Hebrews 12:10)
- F. The church is impure because there is a lack of discipline.
- G. There are several elements for discipline.

II. The place for discipline.

- A. It should occur in the assembly of believers.
- B. God wants to purify in the church. (Ephesians 5)
- C. There is no higher human authority on earth. (1 Corinthians 6)

III. The purpose of discipline.

- A. Holiness is the concern. (Galatians 6, James 5:19-20)
- B. The purpose is to win people back.
- C. There is a loss when a believer goes into sin. (2 Timothy 2)

IV. The person who is supposed to discipline.

- A. We all have to be committed to confrontation in love and weakness. (Galatians 6)
- B. To do this we must have...
 - 1. Willingness.(Leviticus 19:16)
 - 2. Zeal for God's name. (John 2:13, 17; Matthew 7:3)

Application Questions:

1. Why is church discipline important?

2. How can church discipline be abused?

3. What is a proper way to go about church discipline? What are some things every church should take into consideration before acting? Explain.
