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## Discipline In The Church

Jim Bill McInteer

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**HARDING**  
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I. The story of a preacher.

A. "You have lots of trouble with your children." "I've noticed God does with His too."

B. But still the heartache lingers.

1. We want all to do what Jesus wants.

2. Sin will occur.

a. One preacher said 1001--received may call for list--some so afraid they'd missed one!

II. But since it seems we all shan't behave as we should what are we to do about it?

A. Practice church discipline.

1. Clip--define.

2. Do we have any today?

a. Yes--but do we have all we need?

III. Discipline may be Instructive.

A. Note these passages.

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that

2 Tim.3:16 "All scripture is given

B. Various ones share this.

1. Elders

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto your

1 Pet.5:3 "But being ensamples to

2. Preachers

2 Tim.4:2 "Preach the word, *be instant in season*

3. Everyone.

a. You are brother's keeper.

IV. Discipline finally may be corrective.

A. 1st we must always know what we are trying to effect.

I Cor.5:5 "That the spirit may be s.

B. 2ndly we must be willing to take steps to

reach this.

I Cor.5:6-7 "Know ye not that a little

2 Cor.11:2 "For I have espoused... *present*

C.Else Jesus will

Rev.2:5 "Remember therefore from whence

V.What then can be done for the sinning brother.?

A.We can:

*and he sh<sup>d</sup> give him life for them that sin*

1.Pray

I John 5:16 "If any man see his brother

a.Sin's a deadly disease. Would you pray for one physically sick?

2.Restore and Convert.

Gal.6:1 "Brethren if a man be overtaken in

a.Restore=readjustment--like the setting of a broken leg.

b.Gentle in effort to restore, yet strong enough to do it.

c.Overtake=by surprise, slip, lapse--who willfully surrenders hope of heaven?

James 5:19-20 "Brethren if any among you

3.Admonish. *do evr from*

*warn them that are*

I Thess.5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren

I Tim.5:20 "Them that sin rebuke before all

4.Withdraw.—*Surgery the last thing.*

2 Thess.3:6 "Now we command you... *in the name*

I Cor.5:13 "But them that are without God

a.Every body must have rules else anarchy.

(1)We pass laws and punish ourselves if we break them.

Heb.12:11 "Now no chastening for... *joyous*

2 Cor.6:17 "Come out from among

2 Thess.3:14 "If any man obey not

b.These questions:

(1)Who does it?--Whole church.



I Cor.5:4 "When ye are gathered

- (2) What sin does he have to commit?--Not specify--any impentitent one. Yet Bible mentions some:

Fornication I Cor.5:1-5.

Discord Rom.16:17-18- *Mark them which*

Factiousness Titus 3:10

Works of Darkness Eph.5:11-12

Works of Flesh Gal.5:19-21 &

I Cor.5:11

Disobedience of Word 2 Thess.3:4

Walk disorderly 2 Thess.3:6

- (3) Why do it?

2 Thess.3:14 "That he may be ashamed

Isa.59:2 "But your iniquities have separ

- (4) What attitude do I have toward him?

2 Thess.3:15 "Count him not as an enemy,

I Cor.5:11 "With such a one no not to ea

- (5) What makes this hard?

a. Sin blights everything. Plus we know our own weaknesses, he's my friend or kinsman (Matt.10:37) rich & influential, congregation wouldn't like it.

- (6) Will it work? God said do it!

(a) Annanias & Sapharia killed

Acts.5:14 "And the believers were *added to the Lord* *multitudes* *the men*

V. May all our influence be to the overthrow of Satan's hold.

*Westland 6/18/61*

The word "discipline" is the only word of the title of the lesson that needs defining. It means, "the treatment, suited to a disciple, education, training, admonition, correction, subjection to rule, and the habit of obedience." The words "education" and "training" in this definition include teaching, drilling, and correcting the disciple.

There is very much more "church discipline" being practiced than we at first realize. The very purpose of the church is to discipline, that is, to teach and to train in the understanding and use of the principles of Christ.



A further ground of church discipline is that of disorderly conduct. The apostles said to the church in Thessalonica, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (II Thessalonians 3:6). The original word translated "disorderly" in this Scripture means "to be out of order," "to quit the ranks," "to be remiss," "to fail in the performance of duty," "to deviate from the prescribed order or rule." When a member of the church refuses to live by the Bible, the divine rule of life, or when he refuses to help in the program of work outlined by the elders of the church, he is "out of step," or "out of order." He is walking disorderly. It is from such a person that the Lord commands His church to withdraw publicly. And it has no choice in the matter for this is a divine command.

interpret this as approval of their conduct. This is not to say that we should be haughty, or that we should refuse any contact with such people that might enable us to help them, but we must not continue social relations that would render church discipline ineffective.

A few years ago in Nashville, Tennessee, a preacher friend of mine was in the habit of stopping by a drug store each morning on his way to the office for a cup of coffee with the druggist. The druggist was a member of the church, and he and the preacher were the best of friends. Their daily visits continued for a long while, but in the course of time the church was forced to withdraw its fellowship from the druggist because of some unethical business practice. On Monday morning after the action of the church, the preacher walked by the drug store as usual, but he did not go in for his visit with his