



2 Thessalonians 3:13-16
The Health of Discipline
From Sermon 7.24.22

Read *2 Thessalonians 3:13-16*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Where Paul (and we) dealt with a specific sin in the last study, this section focused more on dealing with any sin in the church. Church discipline is clearly a neglected doctrine and practice. Very few have ever been involved in or witnessed a corporate excommunication of a member. Many fears and insecurities flood our mind and spirit when we contemplate this prescribed procedure and its potential consequences. However, we must trust Christ and the Scriptures.

1. Read *1 Corinthians 5:6 & Galatians 5:9*. To what does the Bible compare sin in the Church? Leaven. What is leaven and what's the word picture it presents? The most common leaven is yeast. Put into dough to cause it to rise. In baking, you do not need new yeast for each batch. A little left over from the last will infect all future loaves. Neglected sin works its way through the entire church. It can cause even generational problems in a church.

2. Read *Matthew 18:15-20*. Review the Order of church discipline. Add other notes mentioned on Sunday.

- You and them Only [No telling others/gaining support. No text, letters, or emails]
- Time for prayer, repentance, Spirit leading
- Two or three Others [Not relatives or friends. godly, mature, impartial church members]
- Time for prayer, repentance, Spirit leading
- Take it to the Elders, then the entire Church [Inform and invite the wayward member]
- Time for prayer, repentance, Spirit leading
- Remove Them from the Fellowship [Not allowed at services or off-campus ministries]
- Seek to Restore Them.

3. Godly, Spirit-led balance is key. Can a person or church go overboard in every little thing and transgression? Of course. Generally, it's a matter of self-discipline by Spirit filled believers. In many little things, we must learn to not be overly offended (unlike our culture), and let things go. We also aren't busybodies, meddling in everyone else's business. Be quick to forgive.

4. On Sunday, two "Yikes!" Scenarios were brought up. What were they and how are we to deal with those?

1-When/if the sinning party confesses & repents = we must let it go. Not bring up again. Not share with others. Not beat them up over it going forward.

2-If the "two or three witnesses" hear and assess the situation and think you're wrong or the issue is unfounded. Submit to the Scripture and the Lord's prescribed process. Let it go, keep serving, continue to fellowship with other party. If new issue arises, we not going to play "I told you so".

5. What is the ultimate goal of any sin confrontation or Church discipline? Restoration of the wayward. Also the purity of the Church & obedience to Christ's commands. See *Galatians 6:1-2*

6. Just so everyone knows—the discipline process of an Elder is even harsher. See *1 Timothy 5:19-20*