

Church Discipline – How & Why

1 Why are we to obey the requirement to practice church discipline?

- so that the offender's spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord
 - so that he will be put to shame
- #1788 ἐντρέπω *entrepo*
= to bring to reflection and to affect, to act
(1 Cor 5:5; 2 Thess 3:14)

2 What is our attitude to be?

- we are not to be arrogant, not boasting
 - we are to mourn over the sin
 - we are not to regard the sinner as an enemy
 - we are to pray for the fallen one
 - we are to try to turn him back
 - we are to try to restore him with gentleness
 - we are to admonish, encourage and help the weak with patience
 - we are to, as a last resort, if the offender will not repent, withdraw from him
- (1 Cor 5:2, 6; 2 Th 3:15; 1 Jn 5:16;
Ja 5:19-20; Gal 6:1; 1 Th 5:14; 2 Th 3:6; 1 Cor 5:4-5, 13)
- the church as a whole, it seems, should be in support of the process and the actions taken

3 What is the desired outcome?

- that the sin will, by being removed, not affect the believers, or the church's reputation in the world
- (1 Cor 5:1-13)

4 Why is the Scripture so hard, so extreme in its requirements when there is defiant disobedience and sin in the church?

1. Jesus appeared in order to take away sins
#142 αἴρω *airo*
= to destroy with the implication of removal and doing away with
 - a) He paid our penalty for sin = death
 - b) He shed His blood for our forgiveness
 - c) He put His Spirit within us; He causes us to walk in obedience to God
 - d) in Him we became the righteousness of God
 - e) we were born again; His seed abides in us and the old things passed away

(1 Jn 3:5-10; 1 Pe 1:18-19; Ez 36:26-27; 2 Co 5:21; 2 Co 5:17)
2. we, the church, make ourselves obvious as children of God by practicing righteousness
 - we cannot practice sin because
 - a) we have been born of God
 - b) Jesus keeps on keeping us

#5083 τηρέω *tereo*
= to guard, keep watch over

 - if then a so-called believer refuses to turn from sin and repent, church discipline must be carried out

(1 Jn 3:6, 9, 5:18)

5 What is the purpose of church discipline?

Biblical church discipline intends the good of all involved or affected

1. The OFFENDER
 - a) if he is a believer, it desires his "shame" so that he might be restored
 - b) if he is actually still in a lost state, it desires his repentance and salvation
 - c) God disciplines those He loves so that we may share His holiness

(Heb 12:6, 10)
2. The rest of THE CHURCH
 - a) sin is like yeast that spreads throughout the whole dough
 - b) the offender needs to be removed so that purity is restored to the church and sin would not spread further

(1 Cor 5:6-7)
3. The WORLD
 - a) it demonstrates the distinction between the church and the world
 - b) it displays God's standard of holiness
4. The LORD
 - a) it vindicates publicly His glory, honour and great holiness
 - b) He is totally apart from and opposed to all sin