81. Church Discipline

"Many people fail to make a clear distinction between punishment and discipline, and there is a very significant difference between these two concepts. *Punishment* is designed to execute _retribution_ for a wrong done. *Discipline*, on the other hand, is to encourage the _restoration_ of one involved in wrongdoing. Punishment is designed primarily to avenge a wrong and assert justice. Discipline is designed primarily as a corrective for the one who has failed to live according to the standards of the church and/or society."*

Passage	Problem	Procedure	Purpose
Matthew 18:15-18	The sin of a "brother" (undefined)	1. Private reproof 2. Private conference 3. Public announcement 4. Public exclusion	Restoration (to win "your brother over")
1 Corinthians 5	Immorality Greed Idolatry Drunkenness Swindling	1. Corporate grief 2. Removal from midst 3. No association	Restoration (5:5) Purification (5:7)
2 Corinthians 2:5-11	Unnamed	After sincere repentance 1. Forgive him. 2. Comfort him. 3. Love him.	Restoration (2:7) Protection (2:11)
Galatians 6:1	"A sin"	Restore him 1. As spiritual persons 2. With meekness 3. With reflection	Restoration (2:11)
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15	Laziness, gossip ("busy-bodies")	1. Take note of him. 2. Keep aloof from him. 3. Admonish him (as a brother, not an enemy).	Restoration ("He may feel ashamed.")
1 Timothy 5:19-20	An accusation against an elder entertained without witnesses	1. Need 2-3 witnesses. 2. If sin continues, then rebuke before all.	Purification (so "others may take warning")
Titus 3:9-11	Divisiveness	1. Give 2 warnings. 2. Reject him (as warped, sinful, self-condemned).	Protection (against division)

*Carl Laney, *A Guide to Church Discipline* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 1985), p. 79.

82. Church Discipline Flowchart

1. Open sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1–13)

2. Unresolved personal conflicts (Matthew 18:15–20)

3. Divisiveness (Romans 16:17–18; Titus 3:10)

4. False teaching (Galatians 1:8, 9; 1 Timothy 1:20; 6:3–5; 2 John 9–11; Revelation 2:14-16)

You have firsthand knowledge of sin in the body of Christ

Deal with it.

| If you let it go... | Reprove him privately (Matt. 18:15; Luke 17:3). | He listens. | You have served your brother and won him. |

He continues.

| He may not be saved (James 5:19-20). | Reprove him with 2 or 3 witnesses (Duet. 19:15; Matt. 18:16). | He listens. | You have served your brother and won him. |

He continues.

| He continues to live in sin (1 John 1:6). | Reprove him before the church (Matt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 5:20). | He listens. | You have served your brother and won him. |

He continues.

| He may be chastened by God (1 Cor. 11:30). | "Disfellowship" him (Matt. 18:17; 1Cor. 5:5; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 1:20). | He repents. | You have served your brother and won him. |

He continues.

| God may take him (1 Cor. 11:30; James 1:14-15; 1 John 5:16). | Turn away from him (Rom. 16:17-19; 2 Thess. 3:6). | He listens. | You have served your brother and won him. |

127