

# EPISODE 10: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Everyone, every organization and human society has discipline. Something to get you excluded.

How churches normally deal with sin.

- 2 main errors

First, Total tolerance, refusing to “judge” the person, ignoring sin in the name of love.

- This is contrary to many places in scripture. For example proverbs that talk about the value of correction. Proverbs 6:23 “ For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.”

- There are 3 big problems with this approach.

1- it doesn't help the person. Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2- It doesn't help the church. 1 Cor 5:4 "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" Sin spreads when given space. And the entire church is helped when biblical discipline takes place.

3- it gives the world ammunition- the Christians and the church are nothing more than hypocrites. We have seen this with the many recent sex scandals- not simply where someone in a church abused another person sexually, but where the church and her leaders knew about it and did nothing.

Second, dealing with the problem Non redemptively, expelling people without trying to help them or follow

Third, Bonus wrong: Also a non biblical list of rules. Met a young man whose church told him he had to wear long sleeves at all time and could not have a facebook page or watch TV.

The right way is redemptive.

- Not to ignore the sin, or to ignore the person that is struggling.

- It identifies what sin is, seeks to help people through it, but maintains the standard that clear sin is wrong and cannot be tolerated.

- The point is not perfection but ongoing repentance.



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Biblical discipline does several things:

- Glory of God
- Church purity and health
- Dignity and value of the brother
- Passages about discipline
- Several scriptures

Matt 18:15-18

"15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Steps. process. Usually over a long time.

- Majority of all discipline is unseen in the church. person to person. Conversations about our struggles.
- Extreme cases- goes before the church.

Read more I Cor. 5-

- Practical
- 2 options: Forgiving, or going to the person.
- It protects the church and protects us with some process.
- Not a third, talking to other people

Significance- by joining FGC..

- I need this, and I am inviting others to be in my life.
- I agree to submit to this. Meaning, I am not going to refuse to talk