

1 CORINTHIANS 5 – CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Q: What is church discipline?

A: “Church discipline is the church’s act of confronting someone’s sin and calling them to repent, which, if the person doesn’t repent, will culminate in excluding a professing Christian from membership in the church and participation in the Lord’s Supper because of serious unrepentant sin.” It is what the church does to help its body pursue holiness and fight sin. It is both formal and informal.

Canyon Community Church and C&MA discipline policies:

- CCC By-laws, p.20; Church Discipline, p.92-94
- C&MA Manual: E8 UNIFORM POLICY ON DISCIPLINE, RESTORATION, AND APPEAL -

(<https://www.cmalliance.org/resources/publications/manual-cma.pdf>)

Q: Why is the topic of church discipline important?

A: Sin hinders our testimony. Unchecked and unrepentant sin negates everything about what it means to live a wholly sanctified life. At some point we must ask ourselves what the purpose is of believing in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins if we don’t act like our sins are that big of a deal after all.

5:1-8

- “The Greek word used here, *porneia*, can refer to a number of illicit sexual behaviors”, so it is used to refer to extramarital sexual relations of any kind.
- Attitudes that may have lead them to look the other way: abuse of Christian liberty (it’s all about grace; Romans 6:15, “May it never be!”); they were “loving on him”; rationalized it (it’s not that big of a deal; there are worse sins; everyone does it)
- To be delivered “Refers to expulsion from the church community—probably including their worship gatherings, their meals, and the Lord’s Supper”
- “may be saved” – subjunctive – probability/possibility
- Others experienced this: 1 Tim 1:18-20; 2 Thess. 3:6, 13-15
- Common objection, “that’s not very loving”. “Discipline is not inconsistent with love. It is lack of discipline that is inconsistent with love.” Hebrews 12:4-11.

Q: What actions require formal discipline?

A1: When someone is at risk of imminent harm or has been harmed; B. The testimony of Christ is threatened; C. The sin disqualifies the accused from leadership/service/membership.

A2: Are the people involved willing to fight their sin? Or are they resistant, unbelieving and unrepentant (1 Cor. 6:9-10)?

Q: What is the process of confronting someone of their sin?

A: Note that this process starts as informal that can lead to formal discipline. Matthew 18:15-17

Q: What should you ask yourself before confronting someone of sin in their life?

A1: Can it be overlooked? Proverbs 19:11, “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.” 1 Peter 4:8, “love covers a multitude of sins.”

A2: Have you checked for logs? Matthew 7:3-5, “3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Q: What if someone confesses sin to you personally, and it does not meet the severity for formal discipline?

A: Lead them in the steps of informal discipline through confession, repentance, restitution with support, and accountability. Proclaim the gospel to them.

What Is The “Biblical Basis and Goals For Discipline?”

1. Growth in faith. Titus 1:13
2. Redemption and Restoration. Galatians 6:1
3. Bearing Another’s Burden. Galatians 6:2
4. Forgiveness, Comfort, Love. 2 Corinthians 2:5-7
5. Warning to the Divisive, and to instruct against beliefs and conduct contrary to Scripture. Titus 3:10
6. As a last resort, expulsion from the church, with the hope of future restoration back in the faith community. 1 Corinthians 5:12-13