

# 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)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Private reproof</li> <li>2. Private conference</li> <li>3. Public announcement</li> <li>4. Public exclusion</li> </ol>	Restoration (to win “your brother over”)
1 Corinthians 5	Immorality Greed Idolatry Drunkenness Swindling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corporate grief</li> <li>2. Removal from midst</li> <li>3. No association</li> </ol>	Restoration (5:5) Purification (5:7)
2 Corinthians 2:5-11	Unnamed	After sincere repentance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forgive him.</li> <li>2. Comfort him.</li> <li>3. Love him.</li> </ol>	Restoration (2:7) Protection (2:11)
Galatians 6:1	“A sin”	Restore him <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As spiritual persons</li> <li>2. With meekness</li> <li>3. With reflection</li> </ol>	Restoration (2:11)
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15	Laziness, gossip (“busy-bodies”)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take note of him.</li> <li>2. Keep aloof from him.</li> <li>3. Admonish him (as a brother, not an enemy).</li> </ol>	Restoration (“He may feel ashamed.”)
1 Timothy 5:19-20	An accusation against an elder entertained without witnesses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need 2-3 witnesses.</li> <li>2. If sin continues, then rebuke before all.</li> </ol>	Purification (so “others may take warning”)
Titus 3:9-11	Divisiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give 2 warnings.</li> <li>2. Reject him (as warped, sinful, self-condemned).</li> </ol>	Protection (against division)

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

# 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)

