

DISCIPLINING THE WAYWARD

INTRODUCTION

A. Matthew 18:12-14

Bringing back those who stray is priority work.

B. Galatians 6:1-2

It is not the responsibility of pastors or evangelists only, but of any who identify themselves as “*spiritual*.”

I. WHOM MUST WE DISCIPLINE?

A. Matthew 18:15-20

This passage teaches that a brother who sins against one other Christian is subject to church discipline if he refuses to be corrected.

B. 1st Corinthians 5:1-9, 11; 2nd Thessalonians 3:6, 14; 2nd Timothy 3:1-5

Christians whose conduct is immoral or whose conduct is merely not moral need to be disciplined.

C. Romans 16:17; 1st Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:9-11; 2nd John 9-11

Those who teach falsehood must be punished by the church.

D. 1st Corinthians 5:10-13

Outsiders, that is those who have not yet obeyed the gospel, are not subject to this treatment.

E. Matthew 10:37; 19:29

Kinship is no exemption. Indeed, family members wield greater influence on wayward souls than does the whole church.

II. WHY MUST WE DISCIPLINE?

A. Revelation 3:19; Hebrews 12:5-11

Love is the primary motivation for chastening sinners.

B. James 5:19-20; 1st Corinthians 5:5

Their salvation is the ultimate goal.

C. **1st Corinthians 5:6-8; Ephesians 5:11; 2nd John 10-11**

Failing that, we must keep ourselves pure.

III. **HOW MUST WE DISCIPLINE?**

A. **Galatians 6:1-2**

It takes gentleness. Gentleness doesn't have to lack firmness, but the wanderer needs to know we care, not just that we are proving them wrong.

B. **2nd Thessalonians 3:14-15**

Brotherliness is also needed. We are not above those who need correction; we are in it with them.

IV. **WHAT DOES DISCIPLINE INVOLVE?**

A. **Luke 17:3-4; Titus 3:10**

"Rebuke" or "admonition" is always step #1. We have to put into words that repentance is required.

B. **2nd Thessalonians 3:6**

If verbal correction is not heeded, eventually we must "withdraw" from the errant. This means removing ourselves from them.

1. **2nd Thessalonians 3:14**

No company is to be kept with such folks.

2. **1st Corinthians 5:11**

Sharing a meal is out of the question.

3. **2nd John 10-11**

We don't even greet them any longer, much less welcome them under our roof.

4. **Matthew 18:17**

We have to exclude them the way first-century Jews excluded tax collectors.

C. Romans 16:17

We will need to “note” or “mark” them, too. Some will remove themselves from our number and claim there is nothing left for us to do, but marking them means we put the word out to be aware of these people.

V. WHEN MUST WE DISCIPLINE?

A. Matthew 18:17

Separation from the sinners begins when they refuse repeated efforts to confront their error.

B. 2nd Corinthians 7:9-10; 2:6-11

It must end when the sinner repents. That soul needs reaffirmation, and there should be no cause for him or her to doubt our love.

CONCLUSION

A. Hebrews 10:26-31

The foregoing is said because those who stray are in danger of “worse punishment” than if they had never obeyed the gospel at all.

B. 1st John 1:9; James 5:16

The sinning disciple must confess sin both to God and the brethren.

C. Acts 8:22

Repentance and prayer are essential to being restored.