

# I Corinthians

## Handout #6: Church Discipline

### I. The two goals of church discipline

#### A. Restoration of the offender

1. If a brother sins, restore him in gentleness, Gal 6:1
2. If he listens to you, you have won your brother, Matt 18:15
3. That his spirit may be saved, I Cor 5:5, I Tim 1:20
4. Repentance/conviction always a part, II Thess 3:14
5. Reconciliation might be included, Matt 5:23-24, Philem 18-19
6. Restitution might be included, Lk 19:8, Philem 18-19

#### B. Nurturing the church

1. Identifying the disobedient, II Thess 3:14
2. Protecting church from leaven, I Cor 5:7, I Tim 5:20, Acts 5:5
3. Glorifying God, Josh 7:19, Ps 51:4

### II. The discipline itself

#### A. Context of Jesus' teaching in Matt 18

1. Be humble like little children, vs 1-11, Gal 6:1
2. The Good Shepherd going after the 1 out of the 100, vs 12-14
3. The brother who offends, vs 15-20
4. Forgiving completely as you have been forgiven, vs 21-35

#### B. The brother who offends

1. Step 1: Admonish privately, vs 15
2. Step 2: Go back with two or more witnesses, vs 16
3. Step 3: Present the case to the church, vs 17a
4. Step 4: Consider him an unbeliever, vs 17b, II Thess 3:6, 14

#### C. Jesus is in the process, Matt 18:20, I Cor 5:3-4

### III. The Corinthian case

#### A. Instance ch 5

1. Adultery, vs 1
2. The church was aware but ignoring, vs 2
3. The danger was the morals of the church affected, vss 6-8
4. Paul demanded, separate the man, vss 7, 9, 13, II Thess 3:14

#### B. How Paul used Matthew 18

1. It was reported to Paul, so the church was aware, vs 1
2. Possibly Steps 1 and 2 were also already accomplished, vs 2
3. In any case, Paul focused on separation, vss 5, 9-13

### IV. Repentance

#### A. The example of David in Psalm 51

1. God's grace through Christ is the source of forgiveness  
*"Be gracious to me, O God"*, vs 1; *"Purify me w/hyssop"*, vs 7
2. Brokenness trumps resolutions, intentions, promises  
*"Brokenness"*, vss 16-17; *"Sorrow to repentance"*, II Cor 7:10
3. Come for cleansing, renewal  
*"Wash me, cleanse me; create in me a clean heart"*, vss 2, 10
4. Take ownership of your sin  
*"I know my transgressions"*, vs 3
5. We're rebels by nature, counterfeits by disposition  
*"I was born a sinner"*, vs 5; *"You desire truth at my core"*, vs 6
6. Sin is a failure of intimacy, not of performance  
*"Against You only have I sinned"*, vs 4
7. Agree with God, take His side concerning your sin  
*"I have done what is evil in Your sight"*, vs 4
8. Seek to be back in the joy of the Lord  
*"Restore my joy"*, vss 8, 12
9. Let repentance have its fruit, its proof  
*"Then I will give witness and praise of You"*, vss 13-15
10. The contrite heart → restored relationship → renewed service  
*"Heart"*, vss 16-17; *"favor"*, vs 18; *"service"*, vs 19