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# Church Discipline

A Biblical Approach to Unrepentant Sin  
2019/05/19

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# — **What** is church discipline?

It is not general discipline.

**General Discipline:** Any instruction or correction that guides behavior

**Formative:** teaching, training, memorization

**Corrective:** verbal rebuke, punishment

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# Church Discipline.

How the church  
corrects  
unrepentant sin.

# Church Discipline.

How the church **(subject)**  
corrects **(verb)**  
unrepentant sin. **(object)**

# Outline

- **The Passages**
- **The Purposes**
- **The Mechanics**

# The Passages

There are at least 10 passages addressing church discipline

**Matthew 18: 15-17**

**Luke 17:1-4**

**Romans 16:17**

**Titus 3:10-11**

**1 Corinthians 5**

**2 Thess 3:6-16**

**1 Tim 1:20**

**1 Tim 5:19-20**

**2 Tim 2:16-18**

**2 John 10-11**

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## Matthew 18:15-17

15 “If your brother **sins**, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

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.

## 1 Cor 5:1-13

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. **2** You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.



## 1 Cor 5:1-13

**3** For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **5** *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

## 1 Cor 5:1-13

**6** Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*? **7** Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. **8** Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## 1 Cor 5:1-13

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

## 1 Cor 5:1-13

**11** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. **12** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? **13** But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

**6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you... **10** For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

# Outline

- The Passages
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- The Mechanics

# Save your brother.

- Matthew 18:15 “if he listens, you have won your brother”
- 1 Corinthians 5:5 “deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”
- 2 Thess 3:14 “so that he will be put to shame”



# Protect the church.

- Sin is Dangerous
  - 1 Corinthians 5:6 “a little leaven leavens the whole dough”
- We underestimate sin in our pride
  - 1 Corinthians 5:2 “You have become arrogant and have not mourned”
  - 1 Corinthians 5:6 “Your boasting is not good...”<sup>d.</sup>

# Maintain our testimony.

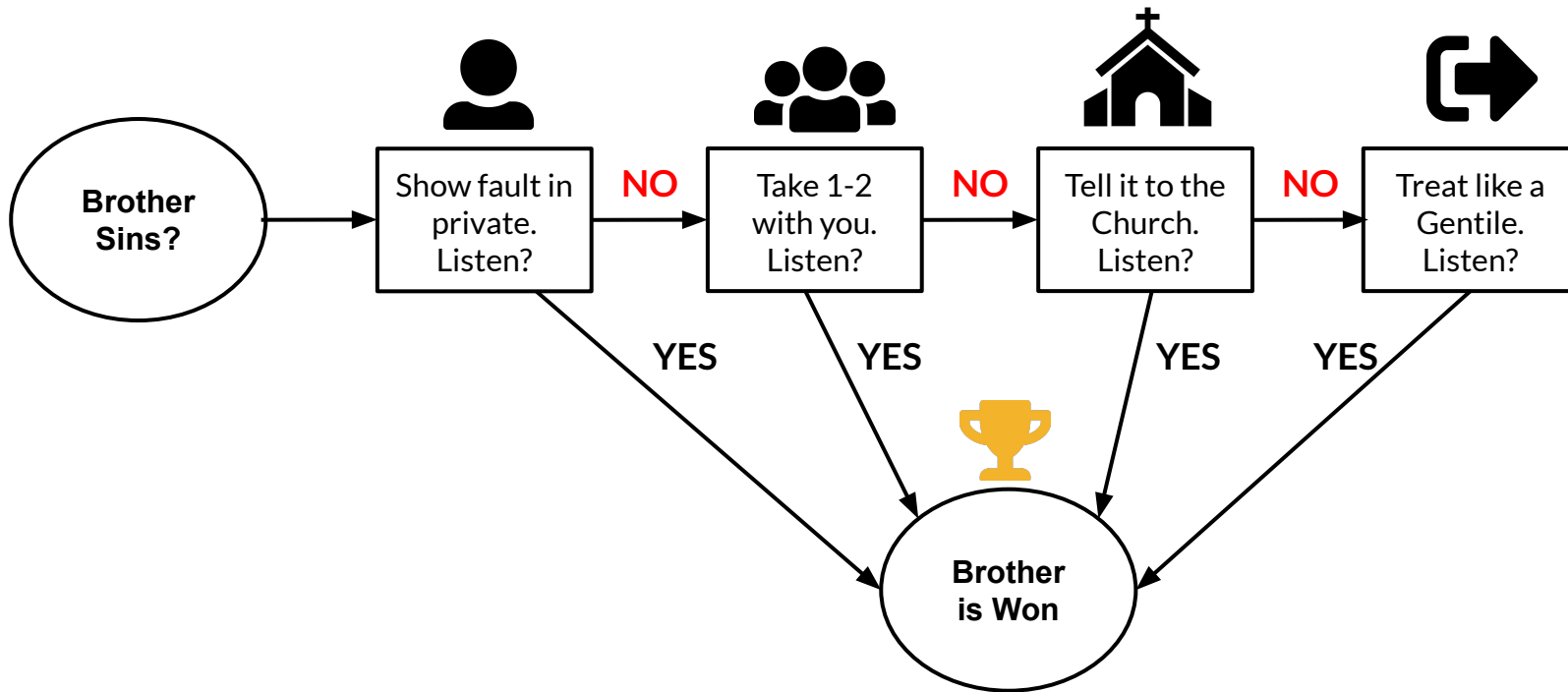
Romans 2:23-24

23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? 24 For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.

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# Matthew 18:15-17 Based Process



Passage	Matthew 18:15-17	1 Cor 5:1-13	2 Thess 3:6-15	Titus 3:10-11
<b>Sin</b>	Sins <i>against you</i>	Incest Immorality Covetousness Idolatry Reviler Drunkard Swindler	- Unruly life - Does not work	Factiousness
<b>Intermediate steps</b>	- Reprove in private - Take 1-2 witnesses - Tell to church	None	Already warned before	2 warnings
<b>Final Step</b>	Treat as Gentile and tax collector	- Deliver to Satan - Do not associate - Not even to eat	- Keep away - Do not associate	Reject

# Much **Wisdom** needed.

- What sins are disciplinable?
- What steps are needed?
- How do you “remove the person from among you”?

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# Questions?







