

Why Should a Church Practice Church Discipline?

October 27, 2013 Wayne Wallace

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 NIV

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.² And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?³ Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,⁵ hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.⁶ Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?⁷ Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.⁹ I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

With this passage in mind, we understand that:

A. Church Discipline is the _____ of the Church

We have Paul writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and *commanding* that an unrepentant sinner, engaged in an openly observable sin, must be expelled from fellowship in the local church.

B. Church Discipline is to be practiced *because of the following reasons . . .*

1. Maintaining a _____ to a Watching World

(vs. 1) "...sexual immorality among you...that does not occur even among pagans."

Leviticus 11:44-45 NIV

I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy....⁴⁵ I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

To be a Good Witness to the World, individuals and churches must:

- Consecrate ourselves
 - _____ for holy purposes
 - As God's community, _____ **God**
- **BE** Holy
 - The core meaning of "Holy" is _____
 - God is "holy" because He is completely different than we are
 - *Be* Holy – don't just make the commitment to obey God
 - Actually _____ than the world

2 Timothy 2:19 NIV

"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from [depart from, abstain from] wickedness."

- Because we are set apart as different, we must _____ before the world

Matthew 5:16 NIV

...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- The _____ is that _____ by our different, holy, righteous lifestyle

2. _____ so that it can be _____
 (vs. 2) "*And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?*"

- Our FIRST Response to Sin in the Church should be _____
1 Corinthians 5:2 "...filled with grief..."
- Our SECOND Response to Sin in the church should be to _____ it
Ephesians 5:11 NIV
 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.
- Our THIRD Response to Sin in the church is to _____
Galatians 6:1 NIV
 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.
 - Work toward _____
 - work to bring the person to _____
 - and a _____ to following the Lord

1 John 1:5-9 NIV

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- We have _____ with others in the church
_____ we “walk in the light”
 - IF NOT, 1 Corinthians 5 says to Expel the person from Fellowship
- Confession of the sin leads to Repentance, Returning and Restoration
- When we “Confess” our sin, we are “_____”
- God Forgives and Cleanses
 - He Restores to Fellowship with Himself and with the Local Church

James 5:16 NIV

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

3. _____ the Unrepentant of _____
(vs. 5) “...hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.”
- Again, the Goal is Restoration and _____
 - vs. 5 “...his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.”
 - When it gets to this place, the only things we can do are . . .
 - _____ the Person of _____
 - _____ them to _____

We can use the following Scriptures with this type of person and as a warning to others:

Romans 2:5-10 NIV

... because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will give to each person according to what he has done." ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil.... ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good....

Revelation 21:8 NIV

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

4. _____ **the Rest of the Church from the** _____
(vs. 6) *"Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?"*

Sin in the Church is likened to: **Yeast**

A Second way to think of Sin's Bad Influence in the church is the _____

1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

A Third way to show Sin's Bad Influence in the church is _____

2 Timothy 2:15-18 NIV

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth.

All this is Why it is Extremely Important to execute Church Discipline.

Expulsion of the Openly Sinful, Unrepentant Person is Necessary (and Commanded):

- To Maintain the Witness of the Local Church
- To Expose the Sin and Deal with it Properly
- To Warn People about God's Judgment
- AND, to Protect the Rest of the Church from the Yeast, Bad Apple and Gangrene!