

Rediscover Church • Week 6 • Is Church Discipline Really Loving?

1) What was your most feared/dreaded punishment or consequence for wrongdoing as a child?

2) Why do we often (usually?) think of “discipline” or “correction” as only a negative thing?

Making Christian disciples involves teaching and correcting, and people use the term ‘church discipline’ to mean the second part – correcting sin. The discipline process begins with private warnings ... The process ends either when a person repents or, if necessary, when the church removes the unrepentant person from church membership. - Rediscover Church, pg. 87-88

3) Is discipline a process or a single action? Why is it important that it happen in the context of ongoing relationships?

4) Read Matthew 18:15-17. What is the problem that begins the church discipline process (v.15)? What kinds of things are not grounds for church discipline? What kinds of things are? (See pg. 88) What causes the process to move from one step to the next, when necessary?

5) Consider the authors' words about discipline and love on pages 90-91 & 93-95. Why is love the right motivation behind discipline, rather than punishment or retribution? Is church discipline really loving? What makes it so, and what could make it unloving?

6) How does thinking of church discipline as a loving act impact the way we approach a brother or sister caught in sin? How does it impact the way we receive rebukes and correction from fellow believers?

7) Why would it be *unloving* to allow serious, unrepentant sin to continue unaddressed in the life of a fellow Christian, or in a church? Why would it be *unloving* to encourage someone to join a church where abusive or wicked, unrepentant people were never disciplined?

8) The Bible tells us to encourage each other and build one another up (1 Thess. 5:11). “Build up” in this verse is “to edify” - in greek the word is “oikodome,” which translates literally as “the building of a house.”

... How should each of the following concepts play a part in our efforts to build up, or edify, one another...? **1** > Encouraging each other **2** > Teaching / Training / Instructing **3** > Correction / Discipline / Calling one another to change & repent

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for the Lord to give you a soft heart that is receptive to Godly correction, that we may always be quick to confess and repent.
- Pray for all of those who are in a position of authority (parents, church leaders, etc.) that are called to discipline others – both to teach and to correct. Ask God to give them wisdom, discernment, and a loving motivation to build up (edify) and nurture.