



ADDRESSING THE ISSUES "Church Discipline" 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

No. 2553

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"Church discipline" is not in the top ten of most people's favorite topics! It conjures up unpleasant thoughts. But let's see what Paul said about it.

I. Behavior that Deserves Condemnation. vv. 1-5

- A. Immoral behavior in the church. v. 1
 - 1. "Porneia"—sin to Jews and Christians—fact of life to ancients.
 - 2. But even pagans drew the line at this behavior!
- B. Improper response by the church. v. 2
 - 1. A display of arrogance.
 - a. Exaggerated "liberty."
 - b. "Puffed up" knowledge.
 - 2. An absence of grieving.
 - a. Inadequate grasp of the holiness of God.
 - b. Insufficient insight into the sinfulness of sin.
 - 3. A failure to act.
 - a. For the name of Christ.
 - b. For the sake of the fellowship.
 - c. For the good of the offender.
- C. Imperative instructions. vv. 3-5
 - 1. Act in "the name of the Lord Jesus."
 - 2. Count on "the power of our Lord Jesus."
 - 3. Turn him over to Satan's sphere – i.e. disfellowship him.
 - 4. To ensure his eternal salvation...
 - 5. ...and in the interim to "destroy" the "flesh."

II. Principles that Require Consideration. vv. 6-8

- A. "A little leaven leavens the lump."
 - 1. Sinful behavior has a corrupting influence on the fellowship.
 - 2. As the Israelites cleaned house for Passover, let's clean house.
- B. We are called to be what we have become.
 - "That you may be...as you really are."

III. Teaching that Needs Clarification. vv. 9-13

- A. Previous letter—disassociate yourselves from sexually immoral people.
- B. That doesn't mean disassociate from "pagans"—means leaving earth!
- C. It means disassociate from professing believers who live immorally.
- D. Our job is not to judge the world—that's God's work.
- E. Our responsibility is to keep our house in order.

Points to Ponder: How should the modern church avoid witch hunts and practice discipline? How can discipline be seen to be redemptive and not vindictive?