

Romans 16:17-19
Marking Dividers
09-10-17

I. Church Discipline as instituted in Matthew 18:

Matthew 18:15-17 *"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 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. 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."*

A. Not a pattern for ALL types of church discipline

1. Exceptions:

- a. Galatians 2
- b. 1 Cor. 5

2. Generic pattern

- a. Admonition first
- b. Action second

B. Restatement of the generic pattern:

Titus 3:10 *Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned*

II. Church Discipline

A. Churches must practice discipline with members

- 1. To offer correction to those in error: 2 Timothy 2:25, Galatians 6:1
- 2. To offer admonition to those straying: 1 Thess. 5:14, 1 Cor. 4:14, Rom. 15:4
- 3. To separate from those who refuse to submit: 2 Thes. 3:6, 1 Cor. 5:11, 2 Thes. 3:14

B. We do NOT separate from serial sinning: 1 John 1:8-10, 2 Cor. 2:5, Matt. 18:21

- 1. Meaning: no one walks perfect; when we confess our sins, we are forgiven
- 2. Withdrawal is ONLY for those who refuse to submit

III. Marking those outside the church (Romans 16:17-19)

A. We do not practice church discipline with non-members

- 1. We mark those who walk falsely outside us
- 2. Paul's directive: Mark (skopeo) "Keep your eye on" (NASB) "Note" (NKJV)
 - a. Avoid them
 - b. "turn away from them" (NASB)

B. Who are we marking outside our congregation?

- 1. Those who teach otherwise: 2 Timothy 6:3-5
- 2. Those who bring destructive division: 2 Peter 2:1
- 3. Those who do not bring the doctrine of Christ: 2 John 9-11

IV. The Difficulty in the Command

A. It seems divisive and hateful

Brethren are focused on just one or two issues (what if that one issue were baptism?)
Good teachers are cast aside (but good teachers can teach error)
Mean spirited (this is done to save souls)
It violates church autonomy (perhaps we are misunderstanding church autonomy)

- B. It seems counter productive
 - It causes more division than unity* (true unity is accomplished this way)
 - No one will come back if we do this* (human reasoning)
- C. We see many reasons not to do this;
 - a. There is really only one reason to do it:
 - b. **God said to do it.**

V. Conclusion: Obedience

- A. Sometimes we must discipline our members
- B. Sometimes we must mark others and avoid them
- C. It is difficult and unpleasant
- D. It is God's will that we do this