

The Church

4.27.22

III. The Power of the Church

“The power of the church is its God given authority to carry on spiritual warfare, proclaim the gospel, and exercise church discipline.” Wayne Grudem

Matthew 16:19 And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid^[a] on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit^[b] on earth will be permitted in heaven.” NLT

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[a] in heaven.” ESV

What are the keys?

-- The gospel

--Church discipline

IV. Church discipline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSJt-LHMNRY>

A. What is church discipline?

“Church discipline is the process of correcting sinful behavior among members of a local church body for the purpose of protecting the church, restoring the sinner to a right walk with God, and renewing fellowship

among the church members. In some cases, church discipline can proceed all the way to [excommunication](https://www.gotquestions.org/church-discipline.html), which is the formal removal of an individual from church membership and the informal separation from that individual.” <https://www.gotquestions.org/church-discipline.html>

“The purpose of church discipline is the spiritual restoration of fallen members and the consequent strengthening of the church and glorifying of the Lord. When a sinning believer is rebuked and he turns from his sin and is forgiven, he is won back to fellowship with the body and with its head, Jesus Christ.

The goal of church discipline, then, is not to throw people out of the church or to feed the self-righteous pride of those who administer the discipline. It is not to embarrass people or to exercise authority and power in some unbiblical manner. The purpose is to restore a sinning believer to holiness and bring him back into a pure relationship within the assembly.”

John MacArthur

B. What are the results of church discipline?

(Wayne Grudem)

--Restoration and Reconciliation of the Believer Who Is Going Astray:

Gal 6:1 Brothers,^[a] if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

--To Keep the Sin From Spreading to Others:

1 Cor. 5:2 You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

6–7 Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

--To Protect the Purity of the Church and the Honor of Christ:

II Peter 3:14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

Eph. 5:27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

C. How to exercise church discipline?

Matthew 18:15 "If another believer^[d] sins against you,^[e] go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid^[f] on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit^[g] on earth will be permitted in heaven.

¹⁹ "I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three gather together as my followers,^[h] I am there among them."

1. Confront one on one

2. Take one or two believers to confront again (If first confrontation was unsuccessful)

3. **“Tell it to the church” (If second confrontation was unsuccessful)**
4. **Removal/Distancing**