



LIVING GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Rescue Mission of the Church

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020



Should a church practice church discipline?

- Love for the individual, that he or she might be warned and rescued and brought back to repentance.
- Love for the church, that weaker sheep might be protected.
- Love for a watching world, that it might see Christ's transforming power.
- Love for Christ, that churches might uphold his holy name and obey him.



Should a church practice church discipline?

“God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness” Hebrews 12:10



Should a church practice church discipline?

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 12:11



The Bible Basics of Church Discipline

““If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 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.”
Matthew 18:15–17



The Bible Basics of Church Discipline

“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”

Deuteronomy 19:15



The Bible Basics of Church Discipline

“Brothers, 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.” Galatians 6:1



The Bible Basics of Church Discipline

“As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,”

Titus 3:10



The Bible Basics of Church Discipline

“If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy but warn him as a brother.”

2 Thessalonians 3:14–15



When do we get to the point of Church Discipline?



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“Does the person repeatedly refuse to repent, such that the person’s profession eventually becomes unbelievable and not affirmable? That is, does this person clench his or her fist around this sin so tightly that it outweighs all other protestations of faith.” (pg. 52)



What sin(s) mandate that church leadership get involved?



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Outward – Serious – Unrepented of



What sin(s) mandate that church leadership get involved?

“We must remember, the decision to move toward excommunication is always about examining the dynamic between the sin and a person’s overall posture of repentance. It’s not a sin-scale that we need; it’s a sin-versus-repentance balance.”

Pg. 57



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:

1. The Process should involve as few people as possible.



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:

2. Church leaders should lead the process.

“you who are spiritual should restore him...” Gal. 6:1



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:

3. The length of the process depends on how long it takes to establish characteristic unrepentance



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:

“The question of ‘how long’ is not difficult for theoretical reasons; it’s difficult for real-life reasons. We cannot see into people’s hearts, and we feel the burden of being tremendously careful whenever we are called upon to inspect the fruit and make a determination on a matter as important of whether the church can continue testifying that someone belongs to the kingdom of God.” (pg. 71)



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:

4. Individuals should receive the benefit of the doubt



Five Principles for how a church should conduct this rescue mission:

5. Leaders should involve and instruct the congregation



A Closer Look at Matthew 18

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A Closer Look at Matthew 18

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:20



A Closer Look at Matthew 18

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The Goal: Restoration and Rescue

“For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.” 2 Corinthians 2:6–8





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