

The Power of the Church

Definition: The power of the church is its God-given authority to carry on spiritual _____, proclaim the _____, and exercise church _____.

A. Spiritual _____ ([2 Corinthians 10:3-4](#))

1. Breaking through sinful strongholds to destroy demonic _____ of the gospel. ([Acts 13:8-11](#), [1 Corinthians 4:19-20](#))
2. God will grant sufficient _____ to give victory to his church. ([Matthew 16:18](#))

B. The Key of the Kingdom ([Matthew 16:19](#), [18:17-18](#))

1. The keys of the kingdom represents the authority to preach the _____ of Christ and thus open the doors of the kingdom of heaven and allow people to enter.
2. The keys of the kingdom includes the authority to exercise _____ in the church.

C. The Power of the _____ and the Power of the _____ ([Romans 13:1-7](#))

1. The church does not have the authority to advance the kingdom through physical _____.
2. Governments should not _____ allegiance to Christianity.
3. Civil governments should not pass laws _____ the free exercise of Christianity.

D. Church Discipline

1. The _____ of Church Discipline

- The _____ and reconciliation of the believer who is going astray. ([Matthew 18:15](#))
- To keep the sin from _____ to others ([Hebrews 12:15](#))
- Protect the _____ of the church and the honor of Christ. ([Romans 2:24](#))

2. For What Sins Should Church Discipline be Exercised? ([Titus 3:10](#), [1 Corinthians 5:1](#), [2 Thessalonians 3:6-10](#), [3:14-15](#), [1 Timothy 1:20](#), [2 John 10-11](#))

- _____
- _____

- _____
- _____ to apostolic authority
- _____
- _____

Principle: All sins that were explicitly disciplined in the New Testament were publicly known or outwardly evident sins that were repeatedly and habitually committed.

3. How should Church Discipline be carried out?

- Knowledge of the sin should be disclosed only to those who _____ to know.
- Disciplinary measure should increase in _____ until there is a solution.
- Discipline of church _____ ([1 Timothy 5:19-21](#))
- Genuine repentance should lead to _____.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do believers actively engage in spiritual warfare, and which “weapons” do you find most neglected or misunderstood?
2. What are some modern-day examples of “strongholds” that hinder the gospel, and how can the church address them biblically?
3. What encouragement do you draw from the promise that “the gates of hell shall not prevail” against the church?
4. How should Christians think about the relationship between the church and the state, especially in areas where laws conflict with biblical teaching?
5. When, if ever, is it appropriate for Christians to resist governing authorities, and what might that look like in practice?
6. What is the difference between struggling with sin and living in unrepentant sin, and why does that distinction matter for church discipline?
7. What challenges or fears might prevent churches from practicing biblical discipline today?