



REDEMPTIVE CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Synopsis: In this workshop we will examine the challenges and pitfalls of church discipline and provide practical guidance on how to carry out discipline in a biblically faithful, highly relational, legally prudent and redemptive manner.

1. Introduction

2. Biblical texts on church discipline

➤ Matthew 18:15-20

➤ Hebrews 12:1-6

➤ 1 Corinthians 5:1-11

➤ 1 Timothy 1:20

➤ 1 Timothy 5:9-20

➤ Titus 3:9-11

3. Two extremes to avoid: vindictiveness and neglect

4. General Problems and Pitfalls with Church Discipline (Matt. 7:1-3)

5. Gospel-Centered, Relational and Redemptive Church Discipline

➤ Biblical discipline is always three-dimensional

- God-aware: “How can we please and honor God in this situation?”
- Self-aware: “How do we guard against our own sinful motives and act with pure hearts?”
- Other-aware: “What is it that has captured this person’s heart and how can we be used by God to lovingly rescue and redeem this person?”



➤ Benefits of redemptive discipline

- For the good of the person disciplined (1Cor.5:1-5)
- For the good of other Christians (1Tim. 5:20)
- For the health of the Church as a whole (1Cor.5:6-8)
- For the corporate witness of the Church (Mt. 5:16)
- For the glory of God as we reflect his holiness (Eph.5:25-27)

➤ Practical Goals

- Saturate the entire process with prayer and loving concern
- Instill HOPE of forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration
- Instruct the church before, during and after each step
- Try and keep a conversation going with person, not fellowship, but open when they are ready to talk
- Document everything
- Remember, this is a gospel opportunity

6. Legal Challenges

- Potential pitfalls
 - Division among leaders
 - Offending and losing credibility with other church members
 - Causing divisions within the church body
 - Enormous diversion of time and energy
 - Lawsuits and legal liability
- Potential lawsuits
 - Division among leaders
 - Offending and losing credibility with other church members
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 - Lawsuits and legal liability
- Best relational and legal protection: Matthew 7:12
- Second best relational and legal protection
 - Informed consent
 - Relational Commitments

7. Resources for equipping and preparing your church for discipline

- Relational Commitments
- Guiding Christians through Conflict
- Handbook for Christian Conciliation
- Discovering Relational Wisdom 3.0 Course
- Relational Peacemaking Course
- The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict
- Advanced Training for RW Instructors, Coaches and Conciliators
- Peace Sower Team Resources

8. Questions