



May 17, 2009 • Dr. David Platt

REDEMPTIVE COMMUNITY (Part 1)

Matthew 18:15-20

As members of The Church at Brook Hills, we affirm this covenant with one another by God's grace, for our good, and ultimately for God's glory.

Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ac. 2:38; 16:31; 20:21; Rom. 10:9-10) and to surrender our lives to Him (Lk. 14:25-33), and having been baptized as Christians in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19; Ac. 2:41; Rom. 6:1-4), we covenant together to glorify God (Is. 43:7; 1 Cor. 10:31) by making disciples (Mt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2) of all nations (Ps. 67:1-2; Rev. 7:9-10).

- Together, we will draw near to God in worship (Heb. 10:22; Rom. 12:1-2). We will delight in the glory of God (Ps. 16:11; 37:4; 63:1-11), depend on the presence of God (Ex. 33:14-18; Mt. 28:20; Jn. 15:5; Jas. 4:8), grow in the knowledge of God (Php. 3:10; Col. 1:9-12; 2 Pet. 3:17-18), and submit to the Word of God as the all-sufficient authority in our lives and in His church (2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Ps. 19:7-11; 119:105-112).
- Together, we will hold fast to the hope we profess (Heb. 10:23). We will regularly participate in communion as we solemnly and joyfully remember the past work of Christ on the cross, celebrate the present work of Christ at the Father's right hand, and anticipate the future work of Christ in His return for His bride (Lk. 22:7-23; Ac. 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-32).
- Together, we will spur one another on to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24). We will meet with one another consistently (Heb. 10:25), pray for one another regularly (Php. 1:3-6), and serve one another selflessly (Rom. 12:9-13). We will share each other's joys and bear each other's burdens (1 Cor. 12:26; 2 Cor. 2:3; Gal.6:2). We will edify one another with our speech (Eph. 4:29-32) and encourage one another with our example (1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Php. 4:9). **We will humbly and gently confront one another and receive correction from one another in accordance with a New Testament understanding of church discipline and restoration (Mt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1).**

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Why Not Church Discipline?

- “Church discipline is **legalistic**.”
 - ▶ Church discipline is **loving**...
- “What about Matthew **7:1**?”
 - ▶ Keep going to Matthew **7:5**...
- “People will **leave**.”
 - ▶ This is God’s church to **grow**, not ours...
- “We don’t **know how** to practice church discipline.”
 - ▶ Then let’s **learn how** to practice church discipline...

What is Church Discipline?

- Two Facets of Church Discipline...
 - ▶ **Formative** Church Discipline:
 - Continual training believers receive from the Word in the body of Christ as their lives are transformed into Christlikeness.
 - ▶ **Restorative** Church Discipline:
 - Corrective care taken by the body of Christ in matters of unrepentant sin in a brother or sister’s life.
- One Foundation for Church Discipline...
 - ▶ The **grace** of God.

Approaching Church Discipline...

- We need childlike **humility**.
- We need a deep concern for **holiness**.
- We need a passion for the **hurting**.
- We need forgiving **hearts**.

Applying Church Discipline...

- Step One: **Private** Correction.
- Step Two: **Small Group** Clarification.
- Step Three: Church **Admonition**.
- Step Four: Church **Excommunication**.

Assurance for Church Discipline...

- We operate under the **authority** of heaven.
- We work with the **support** of the Father.
- We meet together in the **presence** of the Son.

Why Not Church Discipline?

- “Church discipline is _____.”
 - ▶ Church discipline is _____...
- “What about Matthew _____?”
 - ▶ Keep going to Matthew _____...
- “People will _____.”
 - ▶ This is God’s church to _____, not ours...
- “We don’t _____ to practice church discipline.”
 - ▶ Then let’s _____ to practice church discipline...

What is Church Discipline?

- Two Facets of Church Discipline...
 - ▶ _____ Church Discipline:
 - Continual training believers receive from the Word in the body of Christ as their lives are transformed into Christlikeness.
 - ▶ _____ Church Discipline:
 - Corrective care taken by the body of Christ in matters of unrepentant sin in a brother or sister’s life.
- One Foundation for Church Discipline...
 - ▶ The _____ of God.

Approaching Church Discipline...

- We need childlike _____.
- We need a deep concern for _____.
- We need a passion for the _____.
- We need forgiving _____.

Applying Church Discipline...

- Step One: _____ Correction.
- Step Two: _____ Clarification.
- Step Three: Church _____.
- Step Four: Church _____.

Assurance for Church Discipline...

- We operate under the _____ of heaven.
- We work with the _____ of the Father.
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