

# THE CROSS *and* CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

June 2, 2013 • David Platt

## “THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE (PART I)”

1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11

*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... 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.*

### **Why Not Church Discipline?**

- “Church Discipline is legalistic.”
  - Church Discipline is \_\_\_\_\_.
- “What about Matthew 7:1?”
  - Keep going to Matthew \_\_\_\_\_.
- “People will leave.”
  - This is God’s church to \_\_\_\_\_, not ours.
- “We don’t know how to practice Church Discipline.”
  - Then let’s \_\_\_\_\_ to practice Church Discipline...

### **What is Church Discipline?**

- A Threefold Framework for Church Discipline...
  - A biblical understanding of the gospel...
    - God loves sinners enough to \_\_\_\_\_ them in their sin, \_\_\_\_\_ them away from sin, \_\_\_\_\_ them from their sin, and \_\_\_\_\_ them to obey Him.
  - A biblical understanding of a Christian...
    - To be a disciple of Christ is to \_\_\_\_\_ discipline from Christ.
  - A biblical understanding of the church...
    - The church is Christ’s chosen instrument for \_\_\_\_\_ who belongs to Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ those who believe in Christ.
- Two Facets of Church Discipline...
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Church Discipline:
    - Continual training believers receive from God’s Word in the church as their lives are transformed into Christlikeness.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Church Discipline:
    - Corrective care taken by the churches in matters of unrepentant sin in a brother or sister’s life.
- One Foundation for Church Discipline...
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

### **How Do We Practice Church Discipline?**

- Step One: \_\_\_\_\_ Correction
- Step Two: \_\_\_\_\_ Clarification
- Step Three: Church \_\_\_\_\_
- Step Four: Church \_\_\_\_\_

### **Why Do We Practice Church Discipline?**

- For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the individual.
- For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.
  - Church members are \_\_\_\_\_...
    - For \_\_\_\_\_ over unrepentant sin in the church.
    - For \_\_\_\_\_ unrepentant sinners from the church.
  - Church members must be \_\_\_\_\_...
    - Pride: \_\_\_\_\_ of unrepentant sinners in the church.
    - Humility: \_\_\_\_\_ of unrepentant sinners from the church.
  - Church membership is \_\_\_\_\_...
    - The church \_\_\_\_\_ who is a member.
    - Isolation from the church reflects \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ.
- For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - He is the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners.
  - He is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ from sin.



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*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....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.*

### **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?**

- A Threefold Framework for Church Discipline...
  - A biblical understanding of the gospel...
    - God loves sinners enough to pursue them in their sin, call them away from sin, save them from their sin, and empower them to obey Him.
  - A biblical understanding of a Christian...
    - To be a disciple of Christ is to invite discipline from Christ.
  - A biblical understanding of the church...
    - The church is Christ’s chosen instrument for declaring who belongs to Christ and overseeing those who believe in Christ.
- Two Facets of Church Discipline...
  - Formative Church Discipline:
    - Continual training believers receive from God’s Word in the church as their lives are transformed into Christlikeness.
  - Restorative Church Discipline:
    - Corrective care taken by the churches in matters of unrepentant sin in a brother or sister’s life.
- One Foundation for Church Discipline...
  - The grace of God.

### **How Do We Practice Church Discipline?**

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

### **Why Do We Practice Church Discipline?**

- For the salvation of the individual.
- For the purity of the church.
  - Church members are accountable...
    - For mourning over unrepentant sin in the church.
    - For removing unrepentant sinners from the church.
  - Church members must be humble...
    - Pride: Toleration of unrepentant sinners in the church.
    - Humility: Exclusion of unrepentant sinners from the church.
  - Church membership is essential...
    - The church defines who is a member.
    - Isolation from the church reflects separation from Christ.
- For the glory of God.
  - He is the ultimate Judge of sinners.
  - He is the supreme Savior from sin.