

Lesson
17**Exercise 3: Church Discipline**

In this lesson we will go through an exercise to learn what the Bible teaches about church discipline. The Bible teaches us that there are times when our brothers and sisters in Christ “walk disorderly” (are engaged in sin) and as a result, the church may need to practice what is commonly referred to as church discipline. We want to consider what the scriptures require us to do with erring Christians and more importantly what steps we must take prior to moving to the disciplinary process.

1. Prior to reaching the point of discipline, what do the following passages teach us we should do with those in sin? Your answers should include explaining the terms used in these passages.

1 Thess. 5:14

Gal. 6:1-2

2 Tim. 2:24-26

James 5:19-20

2. Define the following words in Greek that are related to discipline and explain what the Bible teaches us in the passage where the words are used. Make sure to look at the passages surrounding these verses to understand the context.

Withdraw:

2 Thess. 3:6

Mark:

Rom 16:17

Company (not to keep):

1 Cor. 5:9, 11

2 Thess. 3:14

Turn Away:

2 Tim. 3:5

Reject:

Titus 3:10

Receive (not):

2 John 10

Put Away:

1 Cor. 5:13

3. Answer the following questions about church discipline. To assist you, read the article entitled “The Matter of Withdrawal” on our web site (www.biblequestions.org) by choosing the letter “F” and going to the section on “Fellowship.”
 - a. Who are the ones that we must withdraw from?
 - b. What are the purposes of withdrawing from a Christian in sin who refuses to repent?
 - c. What is the responsibility of those who withdraw?
 - d. What are the consequences if we fail to withdraw?
4. Read and study 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What was the issue Paul was addressing?
 - b. What did Paul mean in verse 5 when he said to “deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”?
 - c. What were their responsibilities toward this brother once he was withdrawn from?
 - d. In 2 Cor. 2:6-8, it appears from Paul’s statement that this man whom they withdrew from had repented. How were they to treat this man and why was this important?
5. What can be some of the challenges with church discipline being administered collectively as a church and individually as a Christian?