

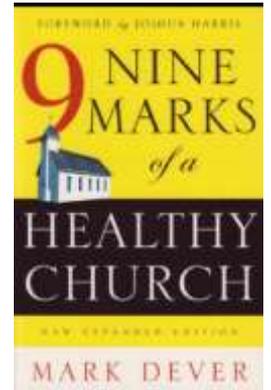
# CHURCH DISCIPLINE

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What is church discipline?

Do we need it?

What is the purpose?



Reference Chapter 7 of

# On the Holy Spirit

***And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:*** (John 16:8)

Sin and Righteousness are opposites. Judgment is possible when/if we recognize and comprehend the contrast of opposites.

We prefer to think only of the positive attributes we admire in God. To fully know Him we dare not forget that He is also jealous, angry, wrathful at times. There is reason for fear in the true sense of the word. Don't water it down.

# As a Christian how do you view the battle with sin?

- A. The battle is won...I am free!
- B. Occasional random skirmishes
- C. Daily struggle with some recurring problems
- D. Discovering new challenges continually
- E. It is a problem for some but not for me
- F. \_\_\_\_\_?

**Which of these most closely describes your view or do you have another?**

# Self examination needed

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. I hope the test won't show that we have failed. But if it comes to that, we'd rather the test showed our failure than yours.

(2Corinthians 13:5-7)

**TEST TO FIND THE TRUTH**



# Restoration is the goal

Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

(Galatians 6:1-3)

**GRACE TO DEAL WITH  
WHAT YOU FIND**



# QUESTION

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CHURCH DISCIPLINE?

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ANSWER

...A LOT!!!

A few examples please.

## Hebrews 12:1-14

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

1. What does sin do to us?
2. What are we to do with sin?
3. Who is impacted by the scourge of sin?
4. Is the struggle against sin universal?
5. When we experience the Lord's discipline should we be surprised?
6. What does it mean?

## Hebrews 12:1-14

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

7. What is/was your experience with parental discipline?
8. What was the purpose/outcome?
9. How did you like it?
- 10....At the time?
- 11....Later?
12. What should be our attitude when spiritual discipline is necessary?
13. What is the goal?  
Never forget this...
14. Where does it come from?

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-11

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.

1. What mistakes are charged to the Corinthian church?
2. What attitude is proper?
3. What action is needed?
4. Who is the judge?
5. What is the objective of the sentence?
6. What peril is associated with inaction?
7. How is it to be avoided?

## 1 Corinthians 5:1-11

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.

8. How did Christ replace the elements of the original Passover?
9. What is the difference between leaven and unleavened bread? See Matt 16:6-12.
10. Which sexually immoral people are we to avoid?
11. What other sins crop up on the list?
12. Are my sins found there? Are yours? What to do?



# NONE OF US ARE IMMUNE

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Sin is with us all each day. If we are honest we can all pray as David did in Psalm 51. Let us close our time of study in the Word today by reading it aloud together.

# Psalm 51 from The Message

A David psalm, after he was confronted by Nathan about the affair with Bathsheba. Generous in love--God, give grace! Huge in mercy--wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry. I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down. You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born. What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

# Psalm 51

Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me. Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails! Give me a job teaching rebels your ways so the lost can find their way home. Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways. Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise.

# Psalm 51

Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice. Make Zion the place you delight in, repair Jerusalem's broken-down walls. Then you'll get real worship from us, acts of worship small and large, including all the bulls they can heave onto your altar! (Psalms 51:1-19)