

## **DISCIPLINE (IN THE CHURCH)**

### **NEEDED TO:**

**1. Maintain sound faith: Titus 1:13**

In verse 12, Paul was quoting a line from a poem by Epimenides, a poet and philosopher who lived in Crete 600 years earlier. Some Cretans had a bad reputation and were known for lying. Paul used the familiar phrase to make the point that Titus' ministry and leadership were very much needed. Their original character had undergone no moral change. The false teachers fit the Cretan stereotype. Therefore, their negative influence needed to be remedied. Rebuke sharply so they would be sound (healthy) in the faith.

**2. To correct disorder: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**

Doctrinal error concerning the day of the Lord had led to disorderly conduct in the church. Some were saying because Christ could return any day, they should set aside their responsibilities, quit work, do no future planning and just sit and wait for the Lord. Their lack of activity led them to sin. They became a burden to the church (who were supporting them), they wasted time that could have been used to help others and they became "busybodies." (Verse 11) Verse 14: if they refuse to obey

**3. Remove the wicked: 1 Corinthians 5:3-5;13**

As an apostle, Paul was compelled to act in this case (he had a higher authority to answer to). By the authority vested in him as an apostle, he passed judgment on the offender and asked the church to enact. This man was to be excluded from the fellowship of the church therefore physically expressing his exclusion from God's protection and thrusting him into the world where Satan would bring about his death.

Verse 7: purge, clean out the illustrated sin

Verse 13: drive out the wicked from among you (taken from Deuteronomy 17:7)

### **HOW IT IS TO BE PERFORMED:**

**1. In meekness: Galatians 6:1**

With a kind and forgiving spirit – not with anger, not with a love of finding fault in others, not with a harsh and unforgiving temper, but with love, gentleness, patience and a readiness to forgive.

**2. In love: 2 Corinthians 2:6-8**

Instead of further rebuke, turn and graciously forgive, comfort and encourage him (if he/she has repented). Satan would gain advantage if they permanently separated this man from the church rather than forgiving and restoring.

**3. In submission: Hebrews 13:17**

The task of spiritual leaders is to help people grow in their relationship with the Father. Does your conduct give your leaders reason to report joyfully about you?

**4. For edification: 2 Corinthians 10:8**

What church leaders must do is for our building up – not to destroy.  
Helping us to remove hindrances and testing what is unsound.

**OTHER REFERENCES:**

**Matthew 18:15-17**

Jesus' guidelines for dealing with those who sin against us. It is meant for Christians: not unbelievers. For sins committed against you (not others) and conflict resolution in the context of the church.

**Titus 3:10-11**

Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning.  
Divisive meaning resulting from self will; the individual doing and teaching what he chose, independent of the teaching and practice of the church.

**Romans 16:17,18**

Be on guard for those who create dissensions. Know the Word of God, check it out regarding what is written or said and don't be fooled by smooth style.

**1 Timothy 1:3-11; 19-20**

Beware of "Scripture twisters!"  
Deliberate disobedience should be responded to quickly to prevent the entire church from being affected.

**2 John 9-11**

Warning regarding anyone who turns away from the teachings of Christ.  
If anyone tries to bring you a doctrine contrary to God's Word, do not receive him/her.

**Hebrews 12:15**

Bitterness can be as a root and can spread to others (see also Deut. 29:18). An Old Testament apostate was called a "root...that produces bitter poison." Such a person would be godless.

**1 Corinthians 15:33**

Keeping company with those denying the resurrection could corrupt good Christian character.