

20. Church Discipline

BC 32

Principles of Church Discipline

The keys of the kingdom

Gospel preaching [Mt. 16:18-19; John 20:21-23]

Christian discipline [Mt. 18:17-18]

Who disciplines?

Institute [Rev. 2:14,20; II Th. 3:14; I Cor. 5:4-5,13]

Who must be disciplined?

The impenitent [Practices or doctrines]

[II Tim 2:17f; II Th. 3:6f; Rev. 2:14; I Cor. 5:1]

Follow Mt. 18

Private & public sin Investigate [Dt. 17:4f] Not elders/minister first

Steps the church follows [CO Art. 76-77]

Silent censure... excomm. [Dt. 17:7; II Th. 3:14; I Cor. 5:2,13]

God will guide His church [Mt. 18:20; Dt. 17:10-13]

One excommunicated = Delivered over to Satan

Outside the church [I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 1:20; II Cor. 6:14]

Why must we separate from impenitent? [I Cor. 5:9-11]

That he may be ashamed [II Th. 3:14]

Otherwise partake of it [II John 11-12; Ex. Form; Dt. 13:6,15]

Motivation = Love for God

For the church [Num. 25:8; Achan; Rev. 2:14-16]

For the brother [Lev. 19:16-18]

Bring the Word; Don't respect persons [Dt. 16:19]

Steps of readmittance [CO 78]

Consistory hears confession [Sees evidence]

1st part [approbation]

2nd part [LS service?]

Questions

What if it's a special officebearer who sins & repents?

He's forgiven. But sometimes he must be deposed.

What happens to a church that refuses to discipline?

God's judgment comes upon her [Num. 25:8; Achan; Rev. 2:14-16].