

DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH  
(Matthew 18:15-20)

- I. The Person RECEIVING Discipline (Matt. 18:15a)
  - A. Is to be treated as a FELLOW-BELIEVER
  - B. Is in NEED of discipline because he SINNED
- II. The Person INITIATING Discipline (Matt. 18:15b)
  - A. Is the person AFFECTED by or AWARE of the SIN
  - B. Is commanded to GO to the SINNER
    - 1. To CONFRONT him about the SIN
    - 2. To be HANDLED in PRIVATE
- III. The PURPOSE of the Discipline (Matt. 18:15c; cf. Prov. 11:30)
  - A. Not to PUNISH
  - B. But to RECOVER
- IV. The ESCALATION of Discipline (Matt. 18:16-17)
  - A. Confront AGAIN with one or two WITNESSES
    - 1. To witness the SPIRIT of the confrontation
    - 2. To evaluate the CHARGE and the RESPONSE

- B. Present the CHARGE before the ASSEMBLY
  - C. EXPEL from the FELLOWSHIP of believers
    - 1. Presumes he is an UNBELIEVER (1 Cor. 5:9-13)
    - 2. Implies future RESTORATION if REPENTANT (2 Cor. 2:5-8)
- V. The AUTHORITY for Discipline (Matt. 18:18-20)
- A. Disciplinary action is AUTHORIZED by HEAVEN (18:18; cf. 16:19)
    - 1. Not to bend GOD'S POWER to MAN'S WILL
    - 2. But to EMPOWER our OBEDIENCE
  - B. The Father VALIDATES our UNITED discipline (18:19; cf. Jn. 20:23)
  - C. Christ PARTICIPATES IN our disciplinary action (18:20; cf. 28:20; Jn. 17:22-23)