

# **Disciplining The Unfaithful**

# What Is Discipline?

- Discipline is often defined as “the practice of training one to obey rules.”
- To be simply put, discipline is “the action of correcting another.”
- The word “chasten” is often used in the Scriptures in reference to this subject.  
(Proverbs 19:18; Hebrews 12:7-11; Revelation 3:19)
- To chasten “is to give instruction or correction.”
- Church discipline can be defined as “the practice of training or correcting a church member who walks disorderly.”

# **Who In The Church Is Subject To Discipline?**

- **One who causes division and offenses contrary to the doctrine of Christ. (Romans 16:17)**
- **One who teaches error. (1 Timothy 6:3-5)**
- **A church member who engages in sexual immoral conduct without repentance. (1 Corinthians 5:1-11)**
- **One who is divisive. (Titus 3:9-10)**
- **One who walks disorderly. (2 Thessalonians 3:6)**

# What Is To Be Involved In Disciplining The Unfaithful?

- The unfaithful are to be rebuked. (1 Timothy 5:20)
- The unfaithful are to be “marked” {i.e. identify them to the whole church as one who is impenitent.} (Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14)
- The unfaithful are to be “withdrawn from” {i.e. this denotes a cessation of social activity from them.} (2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:5)
- Company is not to be kept with an unfaithful member. (1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:14)

# How Is Discipline To The Unfaithful To Be Administered?

- Out of love discipline must be administered to the unfaithful. (Proverbs 3:11-12; Revelation 3:19)
- Discipline must be administered in a spirit of “gentleness” to the unfaithful. (Galatians 6:1)
- Discipline is to be administered without showing partiality or without showing favoritism. (1 Timothy 5:19-21)
- Remember, the unfaithful are not to be counted as an enemy. (2 Thessalonians 3:15)
- Discipline is to be administered until repentance, then we are to forgive, comfort, and reaffirm our love to the one who repents. (2 Corinthians 2:6-8)

# **Why Is It Important To Discipline The Unfaithful?**

- **It is commanded. (2 Thessalonians 3:6)**
- **The Scriptures teach that the Lord's church is to be holy, with out blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)**
- **To set an example for the rest of the members lest they follow in error, and to likewise promote godly fear. (Acts 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20)**
- **It is also important for the benefit of the one who is walking disorderly. (Hebrews 12:7-11)**
- **To aid in saving the soul of an erring Christian. (1 Corinthians 5:5; James 5:19-20)**

# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- **Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)**
- **Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)**
- **Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)**
- **Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)**
- **Be baptized into Christ for remission of your sins. (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27-29)**
- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**