

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Special Topic: Disciplining in Love

11.02.2022

How must we respond to the following situations?

Interpersonal Conflicts: Adam has been hurt because of the insensitive actions of Caleb.

Dividers: Becca is causing confusion & misunderstandings leading to divisions in the local church.

Shared Living: Abraham is soon to be engaged to Sarah in NYC. Both live in NYC and decide to share apartment to save rent. People assume that they are 'living in sin'.

Natural Talent versus God's Gift: Johnson has good command of English and is a gifted orator. He preaches dynamic sermons and congregation is impressed. But there are many doctrinal errors. Pastor is thrilled that many new members are joining and church bank balance is growing.

Business in Church: The church in Joppa attracts around 100 members every Sunday. One church member decides to set up a local store every Sunday in the fellowship hall. Church members find it convenient to shop right after church. Church is growing, Business is booming!

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graph LR; A((Introduction)) --> B((Responding to FIVE Situations));
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Introduction

Responding
to FIVE
Situations

Disciplining
in Love

Disciplining in Love

Why? Who? How?

Lord loves
discipline,
and
disciplines
those He
loves

Lord loves discipline, and disciplines those He loves

that thou mayest know **how** thou oughtest **to behave** thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. | **Timothy 3:15**

Lord disciplines the one he loves. **Hebrews 12:6, NIV**

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. **Hebrews 12:11, NIV**

God is not the author of disorder. | **Corinthians 14:33**

Broad thoughts on discipline ... why, how, when, who, cost?

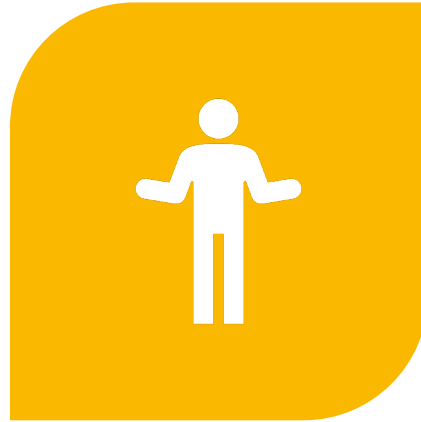
1. Disciplining is biblical and practiced in OT & NT
2. Discipline protects the purity of the church & His glory
3. Discipline leads to healthy growth of a church
4. Undisciplined sins will grow and ultimately, destroy the church
5. Discipline must be exercised using guidance of God's Word
6. Disciplining is painful ... oftentimes, not easy or pleasant
7. Indiscipline must be resolved in a timely and decisive manner
8. Disciplining is the responsibility of church (not just pastor)
9. Church discipline is local (does not apply to outsiders)
10. **Goals:** (a) To maintain the testimony of the church
(b) To restore believers

Why (1-4,10), **How** (5-6) **When** (7) **Who** (8-9)

* Names used
in scenarios are
fictional



#1 Interpersonal conflicts



ADAM HAS BEEN HURT BECAUSE OF
THE INSENSITIVE ACTIONS OF CALEB.



HOW CAN WE RESOLVE?

Progressive Discipline (Mathew 18)

¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

4-step Progressive Discipline

1. Even though Adam is the victim (or been wronged/hurt), Adam **must take the initiative to approach Caleb**

- Adam prays about the situation and seeks God's wisdom
- Adam reflects to make sure he did not provoke Caleb unknowingly
- Adam approaches Caleb and seeks clarification
- Adam collects data first, rather than judge based on actions
- Adam tries to understand what caused Caleb to hurt him
- Adam discovers that (maybe) he is to be partly blamed for Caleb's reaction

2. If Caleb refuses to listen or denies any wrongdoing or is unwilling to discuss or unwilling to reconcile, Adam takes one or two witnesses

3. If Caleb still doesn't listen, Adam tells the church

4. If Caleb rejects the church counsel, Church puts Caleb away

What could
be some
other
approaches
to resolve
this?

Ignore it?

Should Adam overlook the hurt caused by Caleb
and forgive & forget about it without talking to Caleb?

Ignore? ... may not be the best option

Caleb must Forgive Adam ... **but** may not be a good idea for Caleb to simply forget about it without having a conversation with Adam.

If we ignore mistakes, we lose an opportunity to teach about errors. If so, they will continue to make mistakes and never grow in that area.

Ignoring errors may also give the impression that errors are insignificant, inconsequential, and painless.

Jesus never ignored sin ... He would draw attention to the sin privately (without condemnation), and then forgive (example, Woman at the well, John 5). Such **truth + loving forgiveness** leads to positive response and personal growth.

Some verses
that
encourage us
to exercise
patience

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger,
And his *glory is to overlook* a transgression. **Proverbs 19:11**

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are*
spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, **Galatians
6:1**

bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone
has a complaint against another; *even as Christ* forgave you, so
you also *must do*. **Colossians 3:13 (Ephesians 4:2)**

Jesus Christ is our standard for everything!

“Bad” options




Slander: Adam posts on facebook, WhatsApp etc. about evil Caleb



Gossip: Adam adds “spice” to the original story and poisons everyone in church



Vengeance: Adam retaliates and hurts Caleb

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Inter-personal Conflicts: **Reconciliation leads to Restoration**