

“Church Discipline, Part 3: The Approach of Discipline”
1 Corinthians 5:9-13

I. The Church reserves discipline for believers (vs. 9-10).

- A. Believers must be expected to live according to God’s Word.
- B. Unbelievers must not be expected to live according to God’s Word.

(1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:17-18; 5:1-5; Colossians 3:1)

II. The Church examines professions, not hearts (v. 11).

- A. It is not our place to determine whether a person is saved or lost.
- B. It is not single acts, but a lifestyle of unrepentance that must be judged.

(John 7:23-24)

III. The Church has the responsibility to remain purified of sin (vs. 12-13).

- A. Lost people are dead in their sin and will answer to God.
- B. Believers have been freed from sin and are held accountable by other believers.

(Deuteronomy 21:21; Proverbs 27:6, 17; Romans 6:6; 17-18; 20; Ephesians 2:1-2; Hebrews 10:23-25)

Scripture References and Notes

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Colossians 3:1

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Ephesians 4:17-18

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart...

Ephesians 5:1-5

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

³ But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴ and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

“When I command you to shun fornicators, I do not mean all such; otherwise you would require to go in quest of another world; for we must live among thorns so long as we sojourn on earth. This only do I require, that you do not keep company with fornicators, who wish to be regarded as brethren, lest you should seem by your sufferance to approve of their wickedness.”

– *I Corinthians*, John Calvin quoting John Chrysostom

John 7:23-24

²³ If a man receives circumcision on *the* Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on *the* Sabbath? ²⁴ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

immoral person [πόρνος (pornos)]

- one who practices sexual immorality, fornicator
- a catamite; a fornicator, impure person

covetous [πλεονέκτης (pleonektés)]

- one who desires to have more than is due, *a greedy person*
- a covetous or avaricious person; one desirous of having more.

idolater [εἰδωλολάτρης (eidólolatrés)]

- an image worshiper
- a server (worshipper) of an image (an idol).

reviler [λοιδόρος (loidoros)]

- reviler, abusive person
- the use of reproachful words; insulting, contemptuous language

drunkard [μέθυσος (methusos)]

- drunken; a drunkard

swindler [ἄρπαξ (harpax)]

- rapacious, ravenous; a robber, an extortioner.
- properly, *seizing*; a *sudden snatching* (like in a robbery).

Ephesians 2:1-2

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Romans 6:6

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Romans 6:17-18

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6:20

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

Deuteronomy 21:21

Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; **so you shall remove the evil from your midst**, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear.

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

2 Corinthians 2:6-8

⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority, ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.