

Loving Discipline in God's Family #2 – Do Not Keep Company

Hebrews 12:5-13 (ESV) ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the **discipline** (*Greek: paideia*) of the Lord, nor be weary (*fainthearted, discouraged*) when **reproved** by him. ⁶ For the Lord **disciplines** the one he loves, and **chastises** (*scourges*) every son whom he receives.” ⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more **be subject** to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been **trained by it**. ¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Psalms 119:66-72 (ESV)

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.
⁶⁷ **Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.**
⁶⁸ You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.
⁶⁹ The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;
⁷⁰ their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.
⁷¹ **It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.**
⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Working with God to Save Souls

- God Has Done His Part
 - Sacrificed His Son for Us
 - Revealed His Plan for Saving Souls
- We Must Do Our Part
 - Warn the Unruly – *Gal 6:1; 1 Thess 5:14*
 - Withdraw from Disorderly – *2 Thess 3:6*
 - Public Announcement – *1 Cor 5:4-5*
 - Private Application – *1 Cor 5:11*
- Sinner Must Do His Part
 - Repent, Confess, and Correct – *Acts 8:22*

How Do I Withdraw?

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw (yourselves)** from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which ⁵he received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and **do not keep company with him**, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (NKJV) ¹¹But now I have written to you **not to keep company with** anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

2 John 1:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹Whoever £transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, **do not receive him into your house nor greet him**; ¹¹for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Matthew 18:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, **let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector**.

To properly understand Jesus' command, we must understand the Jewish Rabbinical teaching.

Acts 10:28 (NKJV) ²⁸Then he said to them, "You know how **unlawful*** it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. (*unlawful = against godliness, lawless, abominable (1 Pet. 4:3)

Acts 11:2-3 (NKJV) ²And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, ³saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

Can I Socialize As Long As I Also Admonish?

"admonish him as a brother" 2 Thessalonians 3:15

Is this a loophole? Does this give me permission? Is ordinary social interaction required to admonish? All other passages forbid such interaction.

Are Family Members Required To Withdraw From One Another?

- Husband – Wife Relationship? (excluded because of God-given obligations)
- Parent – Child Relationship?
- Sibling Relationship?
 - *"from **every** brother who walks disorderly" 2 Thess. 3:6*
 - *"and if **any man** obey not our word" 2 Thess 3:14*
 - *"not to keep company with **anyone** named a brother" 1Cor. 5:11*

All brethren, unless excluded by other scriptures.

- **Friction:** difficult for all in family.
- **Loss:** warmth and love; "family times"

How do these Biblical principles about family relationships apply?

Matthew 10:34-39 (NKJV) ³⁴"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; ³⁶and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household. [£] ³⁷He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Luke 12:51-53 (NKJV) ⁵¹Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Mark 3:32-35 (NKJV) ³²And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your [£]brothers are outside seeking You.” ³³But He answered them, saying, “Who is My mother, or My brothers?” ³⁴And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.”

Continuing Obligations? Excluded by “special relationship”?

- **Young Child** – lives at home – dependent; still under care – provide needs
- **Older Child** – independent
 - What parental responsibility excludes a parent from withdrawal of ordinary social interaction?
 - Who could love more – who would try harder to restore? Who has more opportunity to discipline and restore in God’s way?

Miscellaneous Questions

- What if a Christian has never been “officially” withdrawn from?
- What if I work on the same job?
- What if I eat in the same café?
- What if I get a social invitation from a Christian and they have also invited one who has been withdrawn from?

Who Will Not Support Church Discipline?

- Some may be unaware of the Lord’s instructions.
- Some may rationalize it won’t work; may think they know better than God how to save the erring.
- Some may claim that it will run people off.
- Grumblers may be looking for a complaint.
- Some may have little faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
- Some may be walking in sin. **2 Corinthians 12:21 (NKJV)** ²¹lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.
- Some may put fellowship with men above fellowship with God.
John 12:42-43 (NKJV) ⁴²Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Conclusion

- Not solely the action of a few, but of the whole church.
- A few can diminish the force and effectiveness of disciplinary action:
 - “This is too cold – too unfair- too severe.”
 - “This won’t work – I’ll try instead to reach him my way.”
 - “This is too difficult for us as a family – surely God understands.”