

“New Testament Church Discipline”
Matthew 18:15-20, I Corinthians 5:1-13

Introduction: Sin is prominent in the “last days”. As a result, sin must be dealt with. The way God chose to handle this is by rebuke. Many times the Lord uses the man of God to carry forth this principal. In doing so, the man of God is looked upon as being mean and bitter. It is amazing that people can live in sin, but when a preacher confronts the issue, he is turned into the “bad guy”. To many, relationships are more important than fulfilling what God said. Despite people’s opinions, this fundamental teaching must be put into practice if people are to repent.

1. The Reason To Rebuke
 - a. Because of Sin John 16:8
 - b. Because of Separation Ephesians 5:11
 - c. Because of Sincerity Revelation 3:19
2. The Requirements In Rebuke I Timothy 4:2
 - a. Longsuffering- (Strong’s- patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance; forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs)
 - b. Doctrine- (Strong’s- teaching; that which is taught; teaching, concerning something; instruction) (This should be taken from the Bible!)
3. The Right To Rebuke Titus 2:15
4. The Roughness In Rebuke Titus 1:13
5. The Restrictions In Rebuke I Timothy 5:1, 19
6. The Rejection Of Rebuke Proverbs 13:1, 8

Body: Now that we have a Scriptural understanding that rebuke is right, let us study how it is to be fulfilled. There is a separation between when it should be done in public and private. The Bible teaches that if the sin is committed in private, then it should be kept in private. If the sin is public, involving other people, then it must be dealt with publicly. Why is this? If people know that they will be dealt with publicly, then they will make a premature apology to save themselves from embarrassment. They may not even be sincere in their apology.

- I. The Private Rebuke Matthew 18:15-20 (Luke 17:3)
 - A. The Violator
 1. His Hurt v. 15- “thy brother shall trespass against thee”
 2. His Hearing v. 15- “if he shall hear thee”
 - B. The Victim
 1. His Accusation v. 15- “thy brother...his fault”
 2. His Approach v. 15- “between thee and him alone”
 3. His Accusation v. 16- “if he will not hear thee”
 4. His Approach v. 16- “take with thee one or two more”
 5. His Accusation v. 17- “if he shall neglect to hear them”
 6. His Approach v. 17- “tell it unto the church”

C. The Voters

1. Their Responsibility
 - a. To Spare v. 15- “gained thy brother”
 - b. To See v. 16- “in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established”
 - c. To Speak v. 17- “but if he neglect to hear the church”
2. Their Rendering v. 17- “let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican”
3. Their Rights vs. 18-20 (Some will say, “Who gave them the right to do this to me?” The answer is that God did.)
 - a. Because of a Given Promise v. 18
 - (1) The Contract- “bind on earth” “loose on earth”
 - (2) The Covenant- “bound in heaven” “loosed in heaven”
 - b. Because of a Gathered People v. 19
 - (1) Their Agreement- “agree on earth as touching any thing”
 - (2) Their Asking- “that they shall ask”
 - (3) Their Affirmation- “it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven”
 - c. Because of God’s Presence v. 20
 - (1) The Collection- “where two or three are gathered together in my name”
 - (2) The Continuation- “there am I in the midst of them”

II. The Public Rebuke I Corinthians 5:1-13 (Proverbs 27:5, I Timothy 5:20)

A. The Problem v. 1

1. There Was A Report- “It is reported commonly”
2. There Was A Reproach- “there is fornication among you...”
 - a. It Was Mouthed Abroad- “named among the Gentiles”
 - b. It Was Morally Awful- “one should have his father’s wife”

B. The Pride v. 2- “ye are puffed up”

1. There Was No Remorse- “have not rather mourned”
2. There Was No Removal- “he...might be taken away”

C. The Presentation vs. 3-6

1. Of The Right Opinion v. 3- “have judged already”
2. Of The Right Occasion v. 4- “when ye are gathered together”
3. Of The Right Obligation v. 5
 - a. There is a Deliverance- “deliver such an one unto Satan”
 - b. There is a Destruction- “for the destruction of the flesh”
 - c. There is a Departure- “spirit may be saved”

D. The Purging vs. 7-8

1. To Cleanse v. 7- “Purge out”
2. To Create v. 7- “that ye may be a new lump”
3. To Continue v. 8- “let us keep the feast”
 - a. Continue To Throw Out Sin- “not with old leaven...”
 - b. Continue In Truth and Sincerity- “the unleavened bread of...”

- E. The Parting vs. 9-11- “not to company” “not to keep company”
 - 1. It Is Exposed v. 9- “not to company with fornicators”
 - 2. It Is Explained v. 10- “the fornicators of this world”
 - 3. It Is Expounded v. 11
 - a. We are to Separate in our Meetings- “not to keep company”
 - b. We are to Separate in our Meals- “such an one no not to eat”
 - F. The Punishment v. 12-13
 - 1. The Church Must Witness v. 12- “judge them that are within”
 - 2. The Church Must Withdraw v. 13- “put away from among yourselves that wicked person”
- III. The Purpose of Rebuke II Corinthians 2:4-11
- A. To Heal Galatians 6:1-2, Psalm 141:5
 - B. To Help Proverbs 9:8

Conclusion: Church discipline is designed by God in an effort to see people repent. After there is repentance, there is to be restoration. Its design is not to harm or wound people, but to show them their need to be right with God and others. If this attempt fails, then the congregation should reject the unrepentant person.

- 1. They are to be Denied Titus 3:10
- 2. They are to be Delivered I Timothy 1:20
- 3. They are to be Dispersed Proverbs 22:10