

WHAT MERITS CHURCH DISCIPLINE?

1. Doctrinal Heresy – Jesus, Bible
 2. Divisive Behavior – undermining leadership
 3. Unrepentant and defiant sinful lifestyle – justifying unscriptural ongoing practice
 - * not committing a sin, or struggling with it
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1. Immediate and primary goal is always reconciliation / restoration
2. conflict, confrontation in love
3. scriptural plan: Matt 5:23 –

if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Dealing With Sin in the Church

Matt 18:15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Practical church discipline might include:

1. step down from leadership or any public position for a time of healing.
2. some denominations remove voting privileges of members?
3. final act if no remorse would include “Excommunication”