

**Equipping the Saints  
*for*  
the Work of the Ministry**

**Discipline in the Church  
Lesson 7**

**Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 20:28-31  
1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3:9-11**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
July 16, 2017*

# What is the Church?

- ▶ The Body of Christ
- ▶ An assembly of believers
- ▶ *ekklesia* (Greek) – called out ones; a gathering
- ▶ Purpose: Edification (Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 10:24-25)
- ▶ Baptism
- ▶ The Lord's Supper – Communion
- ▶ Ministry of the Word
- ▶ Elders and Deacons

# The Assembly of Believers

- ▶ The core principle: “The just shall live by faith”
  - Creation to Mount Sinai (2600 years)
  - Mount Sinai to Pentecost (1400 years)
  - Pentecost introduces the age of the Church (2000+ years)
- ▶ New Covenant Age, Church Age, Age of the Holy Spirit

# Discipline in the Church

## ▶ Old Testament

- MUSAR (Hebrew) – discipline, chastening, instruction
  - Hebrews 12:10-11
- Punishment – a penalty for violation of the Law
- Israel, believers, unbelievers

## ▶ New Testament

- *paideia* (Gr)- discipline (Heb. 12:5-8; 2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 6:4)
- Punishment
- The Church
  - Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)
  - Communion defilement (1 Corinthians 11:27-30)
  - Church discipline – not a Biblical term but a Biblical principle

# Discipline in the Church

- ▶ The teaching of Jesus (Matthew 18:15-20)
- ▶ The warning of Paul to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:28-31)
- ▶ The example of Paul (1 Corinthians 5)
- ▶ The instruction of Paul to Titus (Titus 3:9-11)

# Matthew 18:15-20

- ▶ Context: Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?
- ▶ Must be converted and become like children
- ▶ Receive a little child in My name
- ▶ Do not cause a little child to stumble
- ▶ Stumbling will occur from the world
- ▶ Beware of personal stumbling – risk of hell
- ▶ Do not despise a little child
- ▶ The love of God for a little child
  - Angels minister (Hebrews 1:14)
  - The Shepherd seeks the lost sheep (Matthew 18:12-14)

# Matthew 18:15-20

- ▶ P.S. A lesson on forgiveness
- ▶ Peter's question – How often do I forgive my brother?
- ▶ 70 x 7
- ▶ The parable of the unforgiving slave
- ▶ “Let him that stands, take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor. 10:12)

# Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-20)

- ▶ Discipline, not punishment . . .
- ▶ A brother sins . . . or sins against you
- ▶ First – private admonition
- ▶ Second – return with 2 or 3 witnesses
- ▶ Third – tell it to the church
- ▶ Fourth – treat him as a Gentile and tax collector

# Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-20)

- ▶ Authority (18:18-20)
- ▶ To bind and loose on earth and in heaven
- ▶ Prayer promise pertains to church discipline
- ▶ A solemn responsibility with Divine authority
- ▶ An act done in hope – context is God's concern for His sheep

# Acts 20:28-31

- ▶ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock
- ▶ To shepherd – as in Matthew 18
- ▶ External and internal “stumbling blocks”
- ▶ Errors of doctrine – “speaking perverse things”
- ▶ Intent to draw away the disciples after them
- ▶ Commended to God and the word of His grace
- ▶ Jude 3-4

# 1 Corinthians 5

- ▶ The process shortened to one step
- ▶ Due to neglected discipline
- ▶ “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (5:6)
- ▶ Deliver to Satan . . . that his spirit may be saved . . .
- ▶ Do not judge outsiders, but those within the church

# Titus 3:9-11

- ▶ Reject a factious man after 2 warnings
- ▶ A major threat to the life of “little children”
- ▶ Romans 16:17 – keep away from divisive “brothers”

# Discipline in the Church

- ▶ Protect – holiness and truth
- ▶ A church responsibility for each individual
- ▶ Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”