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.”