

# Men and women and church discipline

Not a common or easy topic

## Part A: Big 'D' Discipline – Excommunication and all that!

### 1) The principles of church discipline

Matthew 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

**a) *Who is to be disciplined? (1 Cor 5:11)***

**b) *What type of sin?***

See also Romans 16:17, 2 Thessalonians 3:14, 1 Timothy 6:3

**c) *What is the process?***

a) A slow process

b) Starts private (and tries to remain as private as long as possible)

c) Always seeking repentance and forgiveness

d) Only as last resort ends in public removal from fellowship (Matt 18:17, Titus 3:10, 1 Cor 5:11-13)

**d) Given the cost, why is this necessary?**

*i) For the person's good! It's out of Love.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Matthew 18:18

1 Corinthians 5:4-5

See also 2 Cor 2:5-8

*ii) For the good of the church!*

- God's church is meant to be pure (1 Cor 5:6-7a)

- God judges the unrepentant church (1 Cor 11, Rev 2-3)

**2) Why is this so hard to apply?**

***a) So counter-cultural***

***b) The issue of power imbalance***

***c) The nature of modern churches***

**3) Seeking to apply the principles**

***a) Apply the earlier steps and rarely necessary***

***b) Apply the key principles***

1) It must communicate to the person their spiritual danger (that they are outside the Kingdom of God)

2) It must communicate to others that such sin is not to be tolerated in a Christian

## **Part B – Little ‘d’ discipline: Being a truly Christian community**

### **The foundations beneath church discipline**

- a) That sin matters and if someone remains unrepentant it damages them and the church.
- b) That to love people is to help them put off sin in their life so that they might grow to be more like Jesus.

### **Cultivating the right culture in our churches**

## **Part C – Specific issues and questions.**