



## **“The Church Is Committed to Restoring Those Living in Sin” (Galatians 6:1-3)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 4 Primary Passages Dealing with Church Discipline: Matthew 18:15-20; Titus 3:10-11; I Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1-3
- *KEY POINT: No one’s ongoing sin should be overlooked.*

### **EXPOSITION**

- See “Toolbox for Skillful Shepherding” bulletin insert.
- The goal in our rebuke is restoration.
- 4 Stages from Matthew 18:15-17
  - a) Go to him/her individually (vs. 15).
  - b) Take multiple witnesses (vs. 16).
  - c) Tell it to the church (vs. 17a).
  - d) Remove the unrepentant from the church (vs. 17b).
- Objections to Church Discipline and Some Answers
  - a) “We aren’t supposed to be judgmental.”  
**ANSWER** – Our speech and our behavior reflect our heart (Matthew 12:34).
  - b) “This will hurt our church’s reputation.”  
**ANSWER** – If done unbiblically, it might. But avoiding it questions the Gospel’s power to deliver us from sin.
  - c) “Isn’t excommunication a means of abandoning the sinner?”  
**ANSWER** – If someone wants to change, we should not turn him away. But excommunication is giving the sinner what he wants, and it’s not Jesus.

- d) “If he is removed from church, how will he ever hear the truth?”  
**ANSWER** – God won’t turn away anyone who seeks after Him (John 6:37). God is sovereign.
  
- The law of Christ is the law of love (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8).
  
- God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:5-11).
  
- Before You Rebuke...
  - a) Check your *life* to make sure you don’t have unconfessed sin.
  - b) Check your *heart* to make sure your motivations are pure, and your desire is to see him restored.
  - c) Check your *words* to make sure you lace them with love and grace.
  - d) Check your *goal* to make sure you want to help him repent and be reconciled to God and others.
  
- Cf. I Corinthians 10:12

## CONCLUSION

## TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER

- 1) Read Matthew 7:1-5. What is the importance of self-examination before confronting other brothers or sisters about their sin?
- 2) What excuses do we use for not rebuking one’s sin? Answer each excuse.
- 3) Book Recommendation – *Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus* by Jonathan Leeman