

“A Mature Understanding of Discipline in the Church” Hebrews 12: 11-29

The purpose of this lesson is to develop a mature understanding of church discipline. This may be a subject you have never heard of before. It can be controversial because it has been neglected for decades in the church. As you think about and discuss this lesson, do so with humility before God and the Scriptures. The results of having no discipline in the church for a long time has resulted in devastating cultural shifts we always complain about. Those cultural changes can only be corrected by God through the Church.

Hebrews 12: 11—“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

According this verse, what is the initial impact of discipline?

What is the end result of discipline?

Church membership roles all across the nation are filled with people who never attend church. They are living just as the world lives. They have no interest in the church and sense no obligation to God or the church. Many of them are broken and hurting. What do verses 12-13 say needs to be done?

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 18-27. In light of these verses, if one member of the church is suffering, what effect does it have on the rest of the members?

Think about this: If one member is living in sin, what effect does it have on the rest of the body?

Let's consider what Jesus says. Read Matthew 18: 15-17. What do you like about this passage? What do you dislike? Why is church discipline important according to Jesus?

Look at 1 Corinthians 5: 1-13. The problem is obvious. Now go to 2 Corinthians 2: 1-11. What do you think the church at Corinth did about this immoral situation in the church? What was the result?

The main reason many churches have avoided church discipline is it has not been done in the right spirit. Read Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3: 14-15; John 13: 34-35. What is the right spirit of discipline? What would be the wrong spirit of discipline?

What do you think the results of restoring church discipline would be?

What do you need to take with you from this study?

Remember: The church is the bride of Christ. Just a thought.