

# **DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH**

by Jerry Fite

# THE NATURE OF DISCIPLINE

## I. DISCIPLINE DEFINED:

- A. "Training that develops self-control, character, or orderliness and efficiency."
- B. "Correction, chastisement, punishment inflicted by way of correction and training."
- C. Our words, DISCIPLINE and DISCIPLE are from the Latin word, "DISCERE" which means " TO LEARN".

## II. DISCIPLINE IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF MAN.

- A. Free will implies the possibility of making a wrong choice.
- B. Free will implies the possibility of leaving the way of the right choice.
  - 1. Man needs to be reminded of the right way.
  - 2. Man needs to be motivated in the right way.
- C. **CLASS EXERCISE:** Pause here and give scripture that establish each of the above points regarding man and his free will.

## III. DISCIPLINE IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IT IS COMMANDED BY GOD.

- A. Parents with children ( Eph. 6:4; Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; etc. )
- B. Government with its citizens (Romans 13:1-7).
- C. God with man (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).
- D. The church with its members (I Corinthians 5:1,4-5, 9-11).

## IV. PURPOSE OF DIVINE DISCIPLINE (Hebrews 12:5-11).

- A. Motivated by love (Heb. 12:6).
- B. Goal to produce reverence for proper AUTHORITY (Heb. 12:9; cf. Acts 5:3-4; 9, 11).
- C. Goal to partake of God's HOLINESS (Heb. 12:10).
- D. Goal to produce PEACEABLE fruit of RIGHTEOUSNESS (Heb. 12:11).

## QUESTIONS:

- 1. What will occur in a society when government does not punish for wrong doing?
- 2. For what purpose does God reveal to us the facts of a future eternal punishment?
- 3. The problem in Corinth shows what frailty of man in regard to fellowship and discipline?

4. Who benefited from the "authority" lesson in Acts 5:1-11?

## **DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION**

### **I. DISCIPLINE IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF INSTRUCTION.**

A. Greek word, "PAIDEUO": instruction in its broad sense as it pertains to a child.

1. "Denotes the upbringing and handling of the child which is growing up to maturity and which thus needs direction, teaching, instruction and a certain measure of compulsion in the form of discipline or even chastisement" (Kittel - The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament - Vol. V, page 596).

B. Word in the New Testament:

#### **PAIDEUO (verb)**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>KJV</b>	<b>NKJ</b>	<b>ASV</b>	<b>NASV</b>	<b>NIV</b>
Luke 23:16	chastise	chastise	chastise	punish	punish
Luke 23:22	chastise	chastise	chastise	punish	punished
Acts 7:22	learned	learned	instructed	educated	educated
Acts 22:3	taught	taught	instructed	educated	trained
Titus 2:12	teaching	teaching	instructing	instructing	teaches
I Tim. 1:20	may learn	may learn	be taught	be taught	be taught
2 Tim. 2:25	instructing	correcting	correcting	correcting	instruct
I Cor. 11:32	chastened	chastened	chastened	disciplined	disciplined
2 Cor. 6:9	chastened	chastened	chastened	punished	beaten
Heb. 12:6	chasteneth	chastens	chasteneth	disciplines	disciplines
Heb. 12:7	chasteneth	chasten	chasteneth	discipline	disciplined
Heb. 12:10	chastened	chastened	chastened	disciplined	disciplined
Rev. 3:19	chasten	chasten	chasten	discipline	discipline

#### **PAIDEIA (noun)**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>KJV</b>	<b>NKJ</b>	<b>ASV</b>	<b>NASV</b>	<b>NIV</b>
Eph. 6:4	nurture	training	chastening	discipline	training
2 Tim. 3:16	instruction	instruction	instruction	training	training
Heb. 12:5	chastening	chastening	chastening	discipline	discipline
Heb. 12:7	chastening	chastening	chastening	discipline	discipline
Heb. 12:8	chastise- ment	chastening	chastening	discipline	discipline
Heb. 12:11	chastening	chastening	chastening	discipline	discipline

#### **PAIDEUTEES (noun)**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>KJV</b>	<b>NKJ</b>	<b>ASV</b>	<b>NASV</b>	<b>NIV</b>
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Rom. 2:20	instructor	instructor	corrector	corrector	instructor
Heb. 12:9	those which corrected	who corrected	to chasten	to discipline	who disciplined

**QUESTIONS:**

- Besides "instruction" what other translation is given for the word, PAIDEIA, in all its noun and verb forms?
- What passage shows that guidance in a way of life is under consideration by the use of the word and not just intellectual knowledge?
- What passage proves that New Testament instruction contains "do's" and "do not's"?
- Place the scripture under the following headings that show that discipline is given by means of:  
WORDS                                      WRITING                                      PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT
- Effective discipline must be motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ .

## **DISCIPLINE: SUBJECT - ACTION - RESULT**

Study chart for the next two lessons:

### **DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH**

<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESULT</b>
Matthew 18:15-17	Commits a personal sin against brother	First, private reproof; Second, take one/two witnesses; Third, tell it to the church	Gained brother Established as fact  Be as Gentile and Publican
Romans 16:17-18	Causes division and occasions of stumbling contrary to the doctrine learned.	Mark ( point out to look at)  Turn away from	
I Corinthians 5:1-11	Fornicator, covetous, idolater, reviler, drunkard, extortioner	Deliver unto Satan; purge out old leaven; have no company with; no eating with.	Destroy flesh New lump Save Spirit See 2 Cor. 2:5-11
2 Thessalonians 3:6; 11-15	Walks disorderly - refuses to work...does not obey Paul's epistles and inspired Traditions handed down by apostles	Withdraw yourself... Have no company with	be ashamed - turn upon self
Titus 3:9-11	Factionous - Heretic	After first and second admonitions - refuse; avoid	Self-condemned

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Divide the subjects for discipline into THREE general categories.
2. What does it mean to be "factious" ?
3. What are two ways one can cause division and lead people away from the truth?
4. Who is the "railer" ?
5. What does "walk disorderly" mean?
6. Defend one of the following propositions:
  - (a) ONLY the sins SPECIFIED for church discipline are subject to discipline by the church.
  - (b) ANY sin persisted in by a Christian causes one to be subject to discipline by the local church of which he is a member.
7. In the references of discipline, list the various phrases that describe the authority the church must appeal to for their standard.
8. If someone wrongs you personally, what are you commanded to do?
9. What should take place before we withdraw ourselves from a brother?
10. Does the fact that people know and condemn your sin have a powerful affect in turning you from your sin?
11. What does it mean to "mark" a brother or a sister?
12. Explain what it means to "deliver one to Satan".

13. Does the action of disciplining a brother or a sister involve hostility?
14. What does it mean to consider one as "the Gentile and the publican"?
15. Does "*destruction of the flesh*" mean that one is put to death physically?
16. Place the scriptures along side the proper headings of motives behind church discipline:  
Love for erring brother or sister:  
  
Love for strong and pure church:
17. Give two results that prove discipline penetrates to the conscience?

## **DISCIPLINE: CASE STUDIES**

**STUDY NO. 1 :** Write the words RIGHT or WRONG beside the following attitudes concerning discipline by the church:

- a. In regard to one who has already cut off fellowship, the church cannot do anything constructive in disciplining the individual.
- b. Withdrawing from them will only drive them further away from the Lord.
- c. When you meet one in public who has been withdrawn from, you can be polite and say hello.
- d. Politely refuse to go out to dinner with a brother or sister who has been withdrawn from who is persistent in continuing in their sin.
- e. We cannot withdraw from THIS brother, because we did not discipline THAT brother.
- f. Withdrawing means we are "kicking them out of the church" .

**STUDY NO. 2:**

A brother or sister has stopped worshipping on Sunday, what should the church do in regards to discipline?

**STUDY NO. 3:**

Should people be withdrawn from because they do not worship with the saints on Wednesday nights?

**STUDY NO. 4**

You know that a brother frequents bars and attends parties where he occasionally becomes drunk. What should you do now with this information?

**STUDY NO. 5**

What is one to do about husband/wife and parent/child responsibilities when the church has disciplined your immediate family member?