Church Discipline
2 Thess 3:6-14

Introduction:
A. Two things have weakened church in recent years.
   1. Lack of old fashioned plain gospel preaching.
   2. Lack of church discipline (Ill. Road commissioner and farmer’s heifer)
B. “Discipline?”
   1. Can refer to all correction – teaching, rebuking, etc.
   2. Usually refers to “withdrawing fellowship” from a member.
C. In this lesson we notice several aspects of church discipline.

Discussion:
I. The Person to Be Disciplined.
A. A brother – member of church the local church (1 Cor. 5:11-13; 2 Thess. 3:6)
B. A brother who walks disorderly. (2 Thess. 3:6).
   2. “Disorderly” – general term covering specific cases (Some say only covers idleness)
   3. “Walk” indicates continuous practice – not occasional isolates acts. (cf. Rom. 8:4; 2 Cor. 5:7; Eph. 2:10; 1 John 1:7).
C. Thus, one who turns to a life of habitual sin, not mere weak brother.
   1. Fornicator at Corinth (1 Cor. 5).
   2. Stubborn and impenitent (Mt. 18:15-18).
   3. Factious person (Rom. 16:17-18; Tit 3:10) – Note: doctrine involved.
   4. Lazy busy bodies (2 Thess 3:6-14).
   5. What about forsaking assembling? (Heb. 10:25-29) – Is this not walking disorderly?

II. The Plan for Discipline.
A. Before it gets to the church (Matt. 18:15-18)
B. After it gets to the church.
   1. Every effort to persuade repentance before final withdrawal.
      a. Matt. 18:15-18 – “If he will not hear the church” indicates efforts to persuade.
      b. Titus 3:10 – “After ... admonition.”
      c. 1 Thess. 5:14 – “warn” then later “withdraw” (2 Thess. 3:6)
   2. After other efforts fail – then withdraw or “deliver to Satan” (cf. 1 Cor. 5:4,5).

III. The Purposes of Discipline.
A. To save the soul (1 Cor. 5:5).
B. To shame to repentance (2 Thess. 3:14; cf. 2 Cor. 7:9).
C. To purify the church (1 Cor. 5:6-8, 13).

IV. The Penalty of Discipline.
A. Excluded from normal association (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Thess. 3:14,15; Rom. 16:17).
   1. Not mere refusal to use in services – what of those never used anyway?
   2. Not merely dropped from the “church directory.”
   3. But, no social mixing and mingling.
B. Not Excluded from all contact, but admonished (2 Thess. 3:15).

Conclusion:
A. Discipline is not an option, it is a command (2 Thess. 3:6).
B. Discipline is not for the weak and struggling, who occasionally slips up.
C. Discipline is for the brother/sister who turns to a life of sin – persists in sin in spite of admonitions.