

Matthew Week 36: Church Discipline: The Process

Scripture Memory of the Month

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Read Matthew 18:15-20

There is a three-step process for church discipline here. Let these questions guide your discussion to better understand each step.

Step 1 (V. 15)

What makes it difficult to address someone in their sin? Why is it difficult to be corrected by others?

Why do you think Jesus calls us to do this first step in private?

What have your experiences been in correcting others in sin?

Step 2 (V. 16)

Why does Jesus call us to not give up in correcting our brother or sister?

Why does he tell us to get one or two others?

Step 3 (V.17-20)

What does Jesus mean when he says treat the wayward brother or sister like a tax collector? Why does he teach us to do this? What does the authority of binding and loosing have to do with this?

What have your experiences been like in this third step? Have you seen this done faithfully? Poorly?

How is this three step process a means of grace for taking care of the church?

This discussion may have brought some situations to mind in our own group and in our own church. If you need to talk to someone about their sin, make a plan to talk to them in private.

3) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

Pray:

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.