

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP THROUGH DISCIPLINE

J.J. TURNER, Cypress Church of Christ, July 20, 2002

Intro:

All people have potential. The question is whether we will use our potential. “All it takes for evil to abound is for good men to do nothing.” – Edmund Burke.

God has established a perpetual teaching program in the Church, whereby those who know the Word are to teach others who will faithfully teach the Word. II Timothy 2:1-2. God has also enabled us to do all things He wants us to do. Philippians 4:13. If we proceed with the attitude of Christ (Phil. 2:5-8), proper discipline in the Church can be a reality, especially if we can give people what they need, approval, appreciation, and acceptance.

The types of discipline are:

- A. Self-discipline
- B. Preventive discipline
- C. Corrective discipline

The goal of all types of discipline should be to restore others and ourselves to Christ.

Self-Discipline:

- Philippians 2:5-8 Have the attitude of Christ.
- II Timothy 2:3-5 Be committed to God, even to the point of suffering.

Preventive Discipline:

- Matthew 8:20 Teach disciples to observe all things commanded by Christ.
- II Timothy 4:1-5 Preach and teach sound doctrine so people will not be led astray.

Corrective Discipline:

- Hebrews 12:9-13 God disciplines us so we may partake of His holiness.
- II Thessalonians 3:6 Remove yourself from a disorderly brother.
- I Corinthians 5:1-7 Remove sinning brother from the fellowship to bring repentance.
- II Thess. 3:14-15 Do not associate with the disobedient brother, but admonish him.
- Romans 16:17 Note brother who causes division and avoid that brother.
- Titus 3:10-11 Do not associate with brother who teaches heresy.
- II John 9-10 Do not provide hospitality to brother who does not follow Christ.
- I Corinthians 16:22 A brother who does not love Christ is to be accursed.
- Acts 5:1-6 Ananias and Sapphira
- Ephesians 5:3-5 Do not allow immorality, etc. in the Church.
- Galatians 6:1-2 Restore sinning brother with gentleness.
- I Corinthians 6:1-11 We should be prepared to judge matters between brethren.
- Matthew 18:15-20 Go to brother who sins against you; progressive discipline
- Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders in Christ and submit to them.

Reasons Churches do not Practice Corrective Discipline:

1. Ignorance of Bible teaching
2. Living in an era of political correctness
3. Post-Modernism thinking
4. “The task is just too unpleasant.”
5. Fear of lawsuits
6. Lack of love for the brethren
7. Some brethren are too possessed by their own sins
8. Fear of offending a relative or friend
9. Ignorance regarding how to discipline properly
10. False “theology” (e.g., excommunication doctrine of Catholic church)
11. Brethren have seen it done poorly in congregations
12. “Too many members need discipline.”
13. It is emotional, hard work
14. “Let’s just leave well enough alone.”
15. “Let’s just let God take care of it.”
16. “There is no reason to discipline if a member has already gone.”

Recommended reading: Smith, F. Legard, Radical Restoration