



# IDENTITY



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# Dealing with the Dysfunctional Christian

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

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## Sermon in a Sentence

When dealing with a dysfunctional Christian, discipline and restoration are equally important for both the individual and the church.

## Question

What needs to be considered when dealing with discipline and restoration?

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### I. Discipline is needed.

- A. Paul told the Corinthians that it was time to bring an end to the punishment for the disobedient member.
- B. There are times when discipline is needed within the body of Christ.
- C. Discipline should be handled correctly.
  - Matthew 18:15-20- ***"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."***
- D. Discipline done correctly cannot be selective.

### II. Restoration is also needed (when possible).

- A. Paul noted that just as discipline should be done the right way, so too should restoration.
- B. What does restoration the right way look like?
  1. ***Restoration must follow repentance.***
  2. ***Restoration requires forgiveness from the church.***
  3. ***Restoration requires exhortation from the church.***
  4. ***Restoration requires love from the church.***

- C. The individual may not repent.
  - 1. The individual may not want to return.
- D. What then?
  - 1. Grant forgiveness.
    - Matthew 6:15- ***but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***
  - 2. Pray for him or her.
    - Luke 6:28- ***bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.***
  - 3. Keep seeking restoration.

### III. How we do both speaks to our identity.

- A. Paul wrote to the Corinthians to test their obedience.
  - B. How we deal with the sin in our midst says a lot about the church.
    - 1. ***The church is known for calling out sin.***
    - 2. ***The church should be equally known for its forgiveness.***
  - C. How the church deals with sin affects our standing with Christ.
- IV. Doing both (when possible) provides spiritual protection. (vs 11)
- A. Paul noted the danger of doing discipline and restoration wrong.
  - B. The church cannot afford to give Satan any ammunition.
  - C. If we do not handle the dysfunctional Christian correctly, we are playing into the enemy's hands.

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