

Let's look at what the Bible says first:

"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline  
or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproofs him whom he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights." – Proverbs 3:11-12

"Whoever spares the rod hates his son,  
but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." - Proverbs 13:24

"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup>And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. <sup>3</sup>For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. <sup>4</sup>When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup>you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. <sup>6</sup>Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup>Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." - 1 Corinthians 5:1-7

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

"As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear." – 1 Timothy 5:20

"Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.  
<sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." – Hebrews 12:3-11

## What “discipline” means according to the Bible?

It usually refers to \_\_\_\_\_, which includes the \_\_\_\_\_ aspect of instruction and the \_\_\_\_\_ aspect of correction, sometimes punitive. (Resulting in a suffering of consequences.)

The result of receiving discipline with humility is \_\_\_\_\_ and a satisfying life.

- “Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.” – Proverbs 4:13
- “He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.” – Proverbs 5:23
- “Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.” – Proverbs 10:17
- “Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.” – Proverbs 13:18

Old Testament – Hebrew means “to instruct, rebuke, warn.”

New Testament – Greek means “to instruct, correct.”

When reading Proverbs:

The book of Proverbs speaks of moral training more than any other biblical book. Its very purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_ through “instruction in righteousness, justice, and integrity” (1:3)

Only an \_\_\_\_\_ would refuse such training (1:7), which includes instruction in God’s Law (1:8; 6:23; Deut. 6:6–7; Ps. 94:12; Eph. 6:4).

A child must diligently pay attention to his father’s and mother’s discipline (4:1; 6:20; 13:1; 15:5), and a faithful and loving parent must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ as part of a child’s training (13:24; 15:10; 19:18; 22:15; 29:15).

## What is the effect of this training?

One effect of such training should be the development of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, an essential characteristic of one who is \_\_\_\_\_.

**But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. – 1 Corinthians 9:27**

**The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. – 1 Peter 4:7**

The Bible teaches that one needs moral training and the discipline of self to defeat the natural tendencies to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that result from moral depravity resulting from the fall (Gen. 4:7).

## What is “Divine” discipline?

Divine discipline is distinct from God’s judgment or punishment. While God’s judgment and punishment is given on the unrighteous, God’s discipline is reserved only for \_\_\_\_\_.

The writer to the Hebrews tells his readers to be \_\_\_\_\_ by God’s discipline in their lives because it serves as the ultimate proof that God is indeed their Father (Heb. 12:5–11).

Representing God's gracious intention toward His children, Hebrews explained that God disciplines for our benefit, so that we can share His holiness (11:10) and that it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it (11:11).

### **Another aspect of Divine Discipline is Church Discipline.**

This is perhaps the discipline \_\_\_\_\_ by Christians of the 21st century in the Church.

If church members are commanded to be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works (Heb. 10:24), then we are also commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ one another lovingly whenever a member falls into sin.

**And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works... - Hebrews 10:24**

During His earthly ministry Jesus commanded the church to practice discipline and outlined the procedure by which it should be executed (Matt. 18:15–20).

If one member sins against another, the offended party should privately confront the member who is in sin in hopes of restoring the relationship. If the member who is in sin refuses to repent and be restored after the initial private meeting, then the offended party should take one or two others along for a second confrontation. If he or she still will not repent, then the church must be told and action taken against the unrepentant member.

While Matthew's Gospel does not spell out precisely which sins are serious enough for church discipline, Paul's epistles do.

In three separate passages, the apostle explains that a member needs to be disciplined:

1. For gross \_\_\_\_\_ that is publicly known (1 Cor. 5:1–13)
2. For \_\_\_\_\_ heresy (Rom. 16:17–18)
3. For intentionally creating \_\_\_\_\_ in the church (Titus 3:10–11)

What is the goal of church discipline?

It is always \_\_\_\_\_.

**Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. – Galatians 6:1**

When the persons in question will not admit that they have been in sin, they should be put out of the fellowship of the church and \_\_\_\_\_ any privileges of church membership, including but not limited to partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 5:11).

**But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. – 1 Corinthians 5:11**

This action removes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church from them and allows satanic attack to reveal their \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual status. Paul holds out the hope that the satanic assault may drive them back

to the church in \_\_\_\_\_.

You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. – 1 Corinthians 5:5

### **Another aspect of Divine discipline is Parental Discipline.**

The family constitutes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the human community. Within that cell of intimate relationships parents are entrusted with the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ their children (Dt 6:7; Prv 22:6).

*“The biblical view is essentially pessimistic about the perfectibility of human nature. Hence parents are urged not to leave children at the mercy of their own natural tendencies. Undisciplined children are potential victims of the powerful conditioning exerted by a predominantly pagan culture. To exercise their responsibilities properly, parents must model values, practices, and attitudes to their children, besides teaching them through instruction and correction. – A. W. Elwell*

God’s Discipline, Self-Discipline, Church Discipline, and Parental Discipline are all used for moral training to live \_\_\_\_\_ that glorify God and magnify His name.

### **Questions for reflection:**

1. What happens when a believer does not have a Biblical understanding of Divine discipline? What could be the consequences with regards to their sanctification?
2. What could be the consequences for a lack of parental discipline?
3. Why do you believe church discipline is rarely seen in the modern church culture?
4. What specific ways does a believer exercise self-discipline?
5. How do we encourage someone that may be experiencing God’s discipline?
6. How do we maintain an attitude of humility in the midst of God’s discipline with us?