

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH
MARK 7

REVIEW –Life needs to be ordered in order for it to thrive and grow. Without the proper establishments of routines, boundaries, and patterns, thriving spiritually most likely will not occur.

DISCIPLE = DISCIPLINE → same root word in Greek

1. It involves **TEACHING, ORDER, LEADING** and **LOVING_**. (Prov. 13:24)

2. The goal of discipline is **SELF DISCIPLINE** (Acts 24:16; Galatians 5:22-23)

3. The ultimate goal of discipline is **CHRISTLIKENESS** (2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Cor. 15:49)

4. Two general purposes:

a. formative discipline – (FORMS) 2 Peter 1:5; 3:18; 2 Tim 3:16

b. corrective discipline – (CONFORMS) 2 Tim. 3:16 (correction & reproof)

II. Matthew 18:15-17 - Our Lord's corrective discipline process when one sins against another. (CONTEXT)

a. Jesus summons a child to illustrate what humility and obedience looks like.

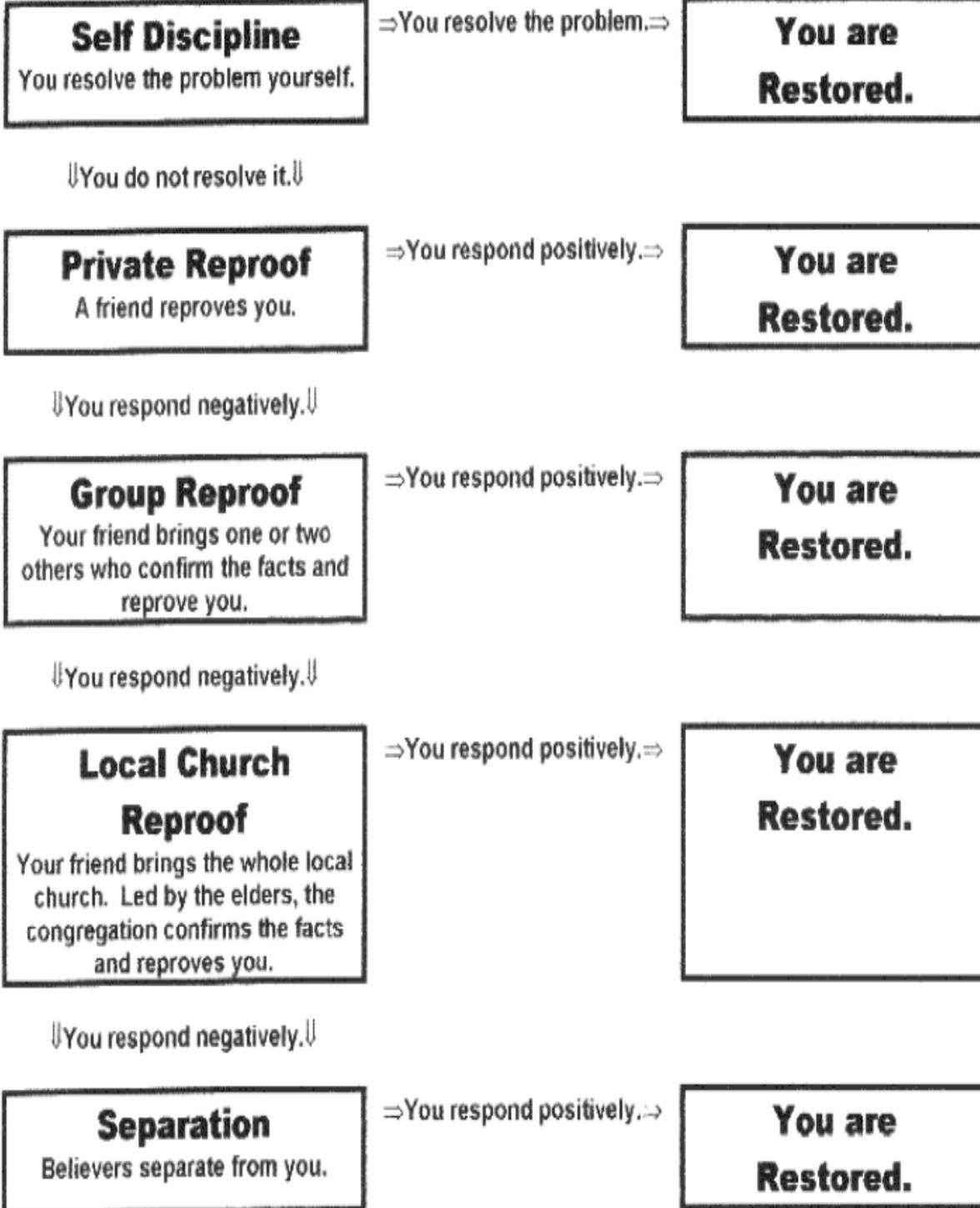
b. Disciplined disciples must share Jesus' LOVE for people and humble themselves first.

c. REFER to chart

d. It's the offender's responsibility to listen

e. Jesus promises to honor the church's decision by binding it!
The action is Ratified or Approved in glory.

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III. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH



OUTREACH – (EVANGELISM) Luke 5:1-11 – DIRTY NETS REPEL FISH.

IT TAKES DISCIPLINE TO KEEP THE NETS CLEAN.

INREACH – (EDIFICATION) Romans 14:17; 15:2-3; Philippians 2:3-4; Ephesians 4:1-4;

IT TAKES DISCIPLINE TO SERVE YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER WHILE BUILDING THEM UP!

UPREACH – (WORSHIP) Hebrews 12:28-29; Luke 7:36-50

IT TAKES DISCIPLINE TO NEVER INTERFERE NOR INTERRUPT SOMEONES WORSHIP OF GOD.

*******1 Corinthians 5:1-13*******

THE CULT – New Christians brought with them their pagan influences (worldly wisdom; celebrated prostitution; rampant divorce, idolatry, religious ecstasy)

TWO PROBLEMS: Man guilty of incest (Lev. 18:8); **Failure of the church to handle**

Leaven & Dough: Sin spreads like leaven in the church. This can impact the church's purpose. _____

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IV. How Do We Joyfully Seek Discipline?

1. Receive the word of God with humility. This means accepting the WORD by faith, with a friendly and submissive heart and with the testimony of God's spirit. (p. 78)

2. Learn to recognize chastisement as evidence of God's love. (Heb. 12:5,6)
Discipline is an act of love, not of vengeance or hatred. (79)

3. Humbly accept correction from others who care and love you. (Prov. 1:7; Prov. 27:5-6)

4. Take seriously our responsibility to discipline others. LOOK at the line of the church covenant found on page 80: *"We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine."*

a. UNITY → LOVE

b. SUSTAINABILITY → DISCIPLINE

CONCLUSION –p. 82

If members don't give themselves to serving others by teaching the WORD... if members shy away from acquainting with each other so that there is no context for meaningful worship, then neither positive nor corrective discipline will occur.