

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have some questions to aid in preparing for the class discussions, so here are a few to consider as you prepare for September 12 on the subject of church discipline. Please read through Article 5 of the church constitution and read / listen to the linked sermons. There are books on the subject and many others that have addressed this topic, and any research you do from those sources are welcomed into the discussion.

We will use the GBC Constitution Article V as the outline for the discussion of the topic and its relevant verses:

- Reasons for Discipline
- Causes for Discipline
- Manner of Discipline
- Steps of Discipline
- Additional Considerations

Questions we will seek to answer include:

- What is Biblical Church Discipline?
- Why do most churches refrain from carrying out Biblical Church Discipline?
- What are the dangers of refraining from Biblical Church Discipline?
- What are some of the unbiblical ways churches discipline?
- What is the balance of tolerance (*"love covers a multitude of sins"* (1 Peter 4:8); working with someone struggling with a sin issue (*"bear one another's burdens"* - Gal. 6:1-4); and proceeding to disfellowship (Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 9-13; Rom. 16:17)?

Some case scenarios:

- 1) Because you are a church leader, someone informs you that one of the church members is drinking to excess and getting drunk
- 2) A scandal has been revealed among the high school students that some of them have become sexually involved with each other
- 3) A man in the church has been nominated to be a deacon. As you proceed through the process in checking out his qualifications, you find out that his business reputation in the community is that he lies and cheats his customers
- 4) The daughter of a prominent and wealthy family in the church has become engaged to someone outside the church. In meeting with them you find out that though she professes faith in Christ, her fiancé is not a Christian.
- 5) A fellow believer confides in you that they are struggling with lustful thoughts brought on by their addiction to pornography
- 6) You notice that a friend at church has become increasingly irritable and is becoming marked by outbursts of anger. What should you do?
- 7) As you get to know a new person at church, you begin to notice that they are very loose with the truth. At what point should this be a concern? When do you think you should talk to them about lying?