

## Church Discipline

Use the GBC Constitution Article V in preparation for discussion of this topic and its relevant verses:

Discussion Topics:

Reasons for Discipline

Causes for Discipline

Manner of Discipline

Steps of Discipline

Additional Considerations

Questions

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. How should you respond?
- 2) A scandal has been revealed among the high school students that some of them have become sexually involved with each other. How will you respond?
- 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. How will you investigate for the truth? What questions would you ask to discern his spiritual walk and desires? What will you do if it is demonstrated that he is a liar and cheat? How can you help him overcome his weaknesses in order to eventually become a Deacon?
- 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. What advice and warnings will you give them? How will you deal with the family?

- 5) A fellow believer confides in you that he is struggling with lustful thoughts brought on by his addiction to pornography. What advise will you give him? What practical help can you give him to help him overcome the addiction and lustful thoughts.?
- 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?

Resources:

[https://www.gracebibleny.org/church\\_constitution](https://www.gracebibleny.org/church_constitution)

<https://www.gracebibleny.org/the-difficult-one-another-matthew-1815f-romans-1514-selected>

<https://www.gracebibleny.org/gods-correction-of-his-children-matthew-1815-20>