

**FMBC BIBLE STUDY**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

**"AN OVERVIEW OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE"**

# **DISCIPLINE: ITS PRESENCE IN SCRIPTURE**

“God’s discipline of his people is an integral part of the Bible’s storyline, from Eden to the new creation.” -Bobby Jamieson

We see discipline, judgement, and chastisement for sin in the garden, in the wilderness, in the exile, and in the Christian fellowship (Act 5:1-11, I Corinthians 11:27-31).

# THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

“We enter into a covenant community upon being baptized. When a believer is baptized, it is based upon faith, repentance, obedience, submission, and a life commitment. The church is a collection of people committed to Christ and each other. The commitment includes regular church attendance, having the word preached and obeyed, and observing the ordinances (Lord’s Supper and Baptism). The kingdom of God is the realm of salvation in which believers live in a current eternal & spiritual relationship with God under the care and authority of Christ (Colossians 1:13).

# MISCONCEPTIONS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- **We can live as Christians apart from the fellowship (Acts 2:40-47).**
- **I am accountable to God only concerning my life and my sins and what I do is nobody's business (James 5:16, I Thess. 5:14).**
- **As long as God has forgiven me, I am forgiven (Mark 11:25-26, Matthew 5:23-25).**
- **There are no qualified people within the church to judge me or tell me how I should live (Gal. 6:1-2, James 5:14).**

# THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**Christianity is a corporate matter. We are in relationship with "one another" and accountable to one another.**

- **Pray for one another (Eph. 6:18, James 5:16)**
- **Confess your faults to each other (James 5:16)**
- **Edify one another (I Thess. 5:11, Colossians 3:16)**
- **Bear with one another (Col. 3:2)**
- **Hold each other accountable (I Thess. 5:14, Rom. 5:14)**

# THE WHAT AND WHY OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

**Church discipline is the process by God in scripture to both address and rebuke others for sin publicly, if need be, to cleanse the church, correct and restore the believer, and glorify God. It is the process of correcting sin in the life of the congregation and its members. It is to be carried out by the church and is a measure that God uses to discipline his people (Hebrews 12:11). "The goal of discipline is always redemption (1 Cor. 5:4), protecting other sheep (vs. 6), and honoring the name of Christ (vs. 1)." - Johnathan Leeman**

# JESUS' PRESCRIBED PROCESS- MATTHEW 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup> “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<sup>[a]</sup> 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.”

# THE PROCESS

- Tell him his fault privately
- Take with you one or two more witnesses
- Report the matter to the whole assembly
- The offender must be excommunicated.  
Excommunication should be the measure taken for the serious, outward sin, and due to unrepentance.

# FOR OUR SAKE AND GOD'S GLORY

