

Church Discipline

By Robert Young Jr.

Church discipline is a topic that many of the Lord's Churches would like to avoid. Some think it should only be applied in the case of sexual misconduct. Many of the Lord's servants think that Church discipline is antiquated and does not apply today. Unfortunately, too many shepherds of the Lord's Church are doing more harm than good because they are not applying the necessary discipline to the Church, as God has ordained it to be applied. That is why I thank God for the leaders of this congregation, who are willing to surrender to the Lord and apply Church discipline to a brother or sister, despite how sad and disheartening it may be.

The main motivation for any Church to even think about applying discipline to its members, who find themselves overwhelmed in certain sins, is LOVE. Unfortunately, many immature brethren think that Church discipline, which usually manifests itself in disfellowship, is a means of punishing or being harsh with the member who will not submit to Church leadership. By No Means! The Bible teaches us clearly that Church discipline or disfellowship is *"so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and [the spirit of that brother or sister may be] saved on the day of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 5:5). And *"don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?"* (1 Corinthians 5:6) This is to say that a brother or sister steeped in sin may easily cause others to stumble and fall into that same sin. And what kind of leaders would we be, if we did not follow God's directive on how to handle these matters? Would you be willing to submit to leadership that did not stand firm in God's Word? I think not!

Another reason why many people have so many questions about Church discipline or disfellowship is because they don't believe it works. They wonder how a brother or sister, weighed down by sin, will ever overcome it without the fellowship of the believers. Well, some of you may remember that about six years ago, I was disfellowshipped for sexual immorality. During the two months that I was away from the Body, I stood spiritually naked and alone before the Lord. I realized that I had not made Jesus my Lord. In fact, I could say assuredly that I was pretending to be a disciple because I would behave one way in the assembly and, behind closed doors, act totally immoral with a continual lust for more. God needed to teach His son (me) a lesson. So, before I reached the seat of judgment, still caught in my sin, God gave me a physical representation of my spiritual state in the Kingdom. After all, the Church and the Kingdom are synonymous. So, being out of the Church let me know that I was out of the Kingdom, because they are one in the same. I also understood that the brothers who spoke to me were God's servants, acting on His behalf, to love me through discipline. It was not an individual who disfellowshipped me, but it was the Lord. Understanding this, I prayed earnestly and meditated on the Scriptures day and night, while pleading with the Lord to have mercy with me. And, as you can see, He has been merciful with me, in exceeding measure, restoring me to the assembly and blessing me with works of service.

In conclusion, whenever Church discipline is applied to a brother or sister, do not interfere. Your interference (phone call, email, unwarranted visit, etc.) may cost that brother or sister their salvation. God is working on that person's spirit, so that they can be saved on the day of the Lord. And that is why our leaders shepherd so diligently, so that we can all make it to heaven. AMEN!

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

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Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist

Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister

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Roger Wine

Marriage Counselors

Derek Peterson

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“Let your Light so shine...”

Matthew 5:16

What does it mean to be the head of the house?

Pedro Gelabert

Matthew 20:25-28 - 25 “Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Some say: “I am the man of this house! I am the boss! You need to obey me!” They do it because they are *demanding* authority. There’s a difference between being authoritative and being an authoritarian. My step-dad was authoritative, my dad was an authoritarian. My step-dad always made an impression on me because he demanded accountability and exacted purity and integrity in every move. What always got to me was the fact that he was beyond reproach. That always made the message sink in. As I have grown older, I have developed a high respect for my step-dad out of love. He always made me think about God by the way he approached things. My dad, on the other hand, was an authoritarian. Oh I feared him all right, just because of his strong personality, not necessarily because of his integrity. As a matter of fact, I was always able to see through my dad’s intentions because they always seemed kind of selfish and boastful. I didn’t hold him in the same place as my step-father. My dad was unpredictable and had to be handled with care. My step-dad was very predictable and you could always count on him giving you a practical solution for your problem. He always made it easy for me to make decisions that I know would please him.

A person who is authoritative is regarded as such because of how he holds himself accountable. Being authoritative doesn’t have to do with your personality. It has to do with *how* you say things and *what* you do. Since an authoritative person demands the best from himself, he will automatically expect and exact holy demands from others, due to his genuineness with God. The man who is authoritative is respected because he *does what he says*. He does it, and then he says it. It is a pleasure to submit to a brother who is authoritative, since you know they are calling you higher to God's standard and they are serving you in this manner. And, may I remind you, if you need to remind someone of your authority; it's probably because you don't have any. At that point, you are just an authoritarian, lording over others, like those in the world.

“The Lord added to their number...”

Acts 2:47

Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
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05/25/03	Johnathan Carter	Medford
06/23/03	Janine Tedesco	Selden

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...”

2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 6,000

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
06/01/03	320	\$ 6,537
06/08/03	332	\$ 5,655
06/15/03	321	\$ 6,502
06/22/03	317	\$ 7,082
06/29/03	326	\$ 4,544

Selflessness

By Lavera Booker

Selfishness is today's norm. When someone thinks more of others, than of themselves, it is uncommon and wonderful. **Selflessness** is a most worthy quality. It is a God-like quality. Let us go back to the beginning, before God created man, when He had already created the heavens and the earth, with every beast and plant, but there was no human form. The earth was perfectly splendid. It was fruitful, fresh, and pollution free. God could have kept all the beauty that He created to Himself, but He didn't.

I think of my own nature and marvel at the selflessness of the Creator. I crochet blankets. A part of me gets stitched into each one I make. I feel pain at the thought of someone not appreciating my gift of labor and love. Could I give my gift, knowing that its stitches would be plucked apart, the yarn discolored, the warmth abandoned? God did. He gave His beautiful creation to man (Genesis 1:26), knowing that we would pollute its oceans, chop down its trees, and cloud its skies with smoke.

He could have decided not to create man at all. To make things worse, He knew we would fall into sin and He knew that He would have to send His Son to earth to suffer and die on the cross. Just imagine, knowing what was ahead, He could have chosen to do nothing.

God loves His entire creation, but most of all, He loves mankind. He decided to make man to share in all He had made. Knowing that we would turn away from Him, He also created a plan of salvation. He sent Jesus to suffer and die so that we would not perish, but instead, have everlasting life with Him in heaven (John 3:16). This was the greatest act of selflessness!

Philippians 2:1-4 reads, *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others.**”*

Sisters, we have been united with Christ (Romans 6:5) and we have much to be encouraged about! God loves us. The agape love we receive from Him motivates us to think as Christ did: *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus”* Philippians 2:5. We must imitate His selflessness. Let us set our thoughts on how we can please God. Jesus did. If we, as Christians, are like minded, there will be no room for selfishness.

Let us put others above ourselves. Let us share what we have with those in need. Let us open our homes and be more hospitable. Use the phone to encourage someone. Let us ask ourselves: “How can I love my brothers and sisters through my service today?” “How can I bring joy to someone else and be pleasing to God?” Remember, whatever we do for the least of these, we are doing for Him (Matthew 25:40). Our love for one another should be the same agape love that God has for us, in spite of the fact that we are sinners.

Philippians 2:1-4 also teaches us to be unified in purpose. Our main purpose in life is to win souls to Christ, and that too takes selflessness. If we are too busy doing for ourselves, we will not be effective soul winners. Selflessness and humility makes us “consider others better than ourselves,” so that their interests supersede ours.

My dear sisters, I feel great joy and peace when I do selfless acts, expecting no reward, and so will you. As you strive to be selfless, remember God's selflessness when He formed the world. Remember when He sent His Son to die for us and remember all the ways that He continues to love us unconditionally.

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night class on July 16th (Long Island) and July 2nd (City).
- 📖 **Upcoming Event:** The annual Church BBQ-Fellowship will take place on Saturday, July 19th, at Belmont Lake State Park, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. (Rain date will be Saturday, July 26th).
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 All announcements and address/telephone changes should be submitted to Derek Peterson.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✚ Good News Stand.....Sayville, New York
- ✚ Paolo Di Luca.....Italy
- ✚ Apologetics PressInternational
- ✚ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✚ Ron Clayton.....India

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(646) 226-2361
Plattdeutsche Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Bob Danklefsen, and Joe Barker. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2003	Location
July 24 - Aug 3	Houston, TX
September 4 - 14	Wenatchee, WA