

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church
Biblical Church Discipline
Matthew 18:15-20

We live in a world that doesn't believe in moral absolutes, that we are able to create a reality that is conducive to our lifestyle choices, and that we can develop an individualized truth that changes with our circumstances. We don't like to be told that we are doing something wrong because our culture no longer believes in categories of right and wrong, only the subjective categories of harmful or safe.

1. Discipline should focus on restoration.

2. Discipline should focus on reconciliation.

3. Discipline should focus on redemption.

Christ redeemed us through his death burial and resurrection and he has done the same for the person you have hurt or who has hurt you. Jesus gave up everything in order to restore, reconcile, and redeem us. Is it too much to ask that we give up our pride or our ambition in order to display hearts that are grateful for Christ and put His redemptive purposes on display for the whole world to see?

For further consideration

Has there ever been a time when someone in the church hurt or offended you? What process, if any, did you use to try to restore the relationship? Has anyone ever approached you with a grievance about a hurt or offense you may have caused? What was your reaction? What is the status of that relationship now? Do you think it is ever too late to seek restoration and reconciliation with a brother or sister in Christ? What are the potential consequences of not attending to those matters? Is there someone that might benefit from your forgiveness or your willingness to ask to be forgiven?