

Dare to Discipline

- “For a man to conquer himself is the first and noblest of all victories” – Plato
- “Rule your mind or it will rule you” – Horace
- “We must all suffer one of two things: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret and disappointment” – Rohn

2 Thes.3:6-15

- May be most painful section for Paul to write
- Surely the most difficult for Thessalonians to read and to practice . . .

I. Closing Admonitions

6a:

- We command you
- Paul: authority of apostle; orders, not suggestions

6b:

- Name of Lord: all that he is; by His authority
 - *Withdraw* from: keep away, stand aloof
 - Every brother walking *disorderly* (out of rank, unruly). Freeloading. 1 Th.5:14
 - Deissmann papyrus: *apprentice...absence*
- Not according to *tradition* (teaching, commands; instruction handed down, 2:15)
- *Received* from us. 1 Th.2:13

The teaching was not received by all

7a:

- You know how you ought to follow us (our mimic): use as a model, imitate, emulate, follow. 1 Th.1:6
- Paul set the example for them to follow.
- Ac.17:7

7b:

- We were not disorderly among you [behave inappropriately, v.6]
- Paul was worthy of support from converts (1 Co.9) but supported himself as an example

8a:

- We did not eat anyone's bread free of charge (without paying for it)
- Work is a blessing (Mk.6:3)

8b:

- Worked with labor and toil, night and day.
1 Th.2:9

9:

- Not because we lack authority
 - Lk.10:7 . . . 1 Tim.5:18
- “To make ourselves an example of how you should imitate us”

He did allow churches to help when it would not be misused or misunderstood.
2 Co.11:8-9; Ph.4

10:

- We commanded you: *no work, no eat*
- [Not merely, “he will have no food to eat,” but “neither shall he eat”]
- An empty pantry preaches a strong sermon on the benefits of work

11:

- We hear: some walk disorderly...not working at all
- Pun: doing no business but busybodies
- 1 Tim.5:13
- Excuse: waiting for Lord's return?

'Idle hands are the devil's workshop;
idle lips are his mouthpiece'

12a:

- Those who are such we command (give orders and exhort – urge strongly, encourage) through our Lord Jesus Christ

12b:

- Work in quietness . . . and eat their own bread

13:

- Emphatic: as for you, brethren, do not grow weary . . . lose motivation in continuing a desirable pattern of conduct, lose enthusiasm, discouraged) . . .
- ...in doing good
- ‘Let us not grow weary while doing good...’
(Gal.6:9)

14:

- If anyone does not obey our word in this epistle...
- Written word has all force of spoken word] – true of all NT
 1. Note that person, mark. Disobedience to authority, disorderly conduct in the church cannot be ignored
 2. Do not keep company with him...
 3. That he may be ashamed. 1 Th.5:14, admonishment failed; now w/draw

15:

- Do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother
 - Warn, instruct
 - Purpose of discipline: to save the lost

I. Closing Admonitions

II. Concluding
Applications

Objects of church discipline

1. Mt.18:15-17, one who refuses to correct sin against a brother

Objects of church discipline

2. Ro.16:17-18, false teachers who cause divisions and offenses contrary to doctrine
 - Note them:
 - Ph.3:17, keep eyes on the obedient
 - Ro.16, keep eyes on these to avoid...
 - Doctrine matters
 - Smooth words / flattering speech
 - Deceive hearts of simple
 - Congregation at risk. Gal.1. Ep.5:11f.

Objects of church discipline

3. 1 Co.5, 'immoral Christians'

1: unbelievable immorality

- Marriage or concubinage? (Incest)
- '*Have*' – commonly used of marriage
- Death penalty under OT (Lv.18:8)
- Common in people of authority –
 - Cleopatra
 - Caligula
 - Nero
 - Herod Antipas

Objects of church discipline

3. 1 Co.5, 'immoral Christians'

2: church was indifferent and arrogant

3: though Paul is not in Corinth, he acts...

4-5: in Name of Lord: deliver to satan

- Rom.1:24-27, given up to pursue passions; sin has its own penalty

- Lk.15

6: one bad apple... 2 Tim.2:17

Objects of church discipline

3. 1 Co.5, 'immoral Christians'

7: purge

8: feast becomes funeral

9-11: love 'brother' enough to discipline

12-13: Paul did judge ungodly in world;
withdrew only from Christians . . .

Objects of church discipline

4. 1 Tim.1:18-20, blasphemers

18: war! 1 Tim.6:12

19: shipwreck – embarked in vessel 'faith';
'good conscience' was anchor

20: handed over to satan...

- Object: cause them to see themselves as sinners; repent; no longer rail at truth

Objects of church discipline

5. Titus 3:10-11, heretic / factious / divisive

Ac.5:17, Sadducees

Ac.15:5, Pharisees

Sect: Ac.24:14

- **Warped:** perverted; has gone the wrong way (twisted by sin). Doctrine matters, 2 Jn.9
- **Self-condemned:** conscious of his state (consider themselves unworthy)

Objectives of church discipline

1. Determine guilt or innocence. Mt.18:15
2. Multiple warnings to guilty person.
Mt.18:16... 1 Th.5:14
3. Mark him (not same as withdrawing).
Mt.18:17
4. Have no company with him. Mt.18:17, as
Gentile or publican. Ro.16:17
5. If he repents, forgive him. 2 Co.2

Conclusion

16:

Ch.1 – vengeance / eternal destruction

Ch.2 – warned of the man of sin

Ch.3 – withdraw from disorderly

- 16: Paul concludes by praying for peace...
- Christian's calm heart lives on faith in God, independent of circumstances. Ac.18:9-10

Conclusion

17:

Paul dictated his letters

Here, as was customary, he takes up the pen to sign his name – a sign of authenticity

Forgeries existed – 2 Th.2:3

“In every epistle” = he wrote other letters that we don’t have. 1 Co.5:9

Conclusion

18:

Grace be with you

Paul commences and concludes every epistle
with grace