

Introduction

1. Imagine a disorderly army where each soldier does what he wants when he wants and will not take orders from anyone.
 - a. Would such an army accomplish anything?
 - b. Would any battles be won?
 - c. Would unity be achieved?
2. The church is likened to an army ([1 Tim. 1:18](#); [2 Tim. 2:3-4](#)).
 - a. Armor is required, which is likened to that of a Roman soldier ([Eph. 6:10-20](#)).
3. Discipline is absolutely demanded in the army and no less so in the church.
 - a. Discipline describes “training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
 - b. The Word of God enables our perfection because it is perfect ([2 Tim. 3:16-17](#); [Jm. 1:25](#)).
 - c. Discipline demands correction as we are not always right in our moral character ([1 Jn. 1:8-2:2](#)).

I. Discipline is Done Out of Love

1. The devil would have us believe that discipline is unloving, mean-spirited, and hateful.
 - a. Such is expected because he is the father of lies ([Jn. 8:44](#)).
 - b. The devil wants us to be lost not corrected to a proper moral standard.
2. The LORD corrects those that He loves ([Pr. 3:11-12](#)).
 - a. The chastening (disciplining) of the LORD makes us partakers of God’s holiness and produces righteousness ([Heb. 12:5-11](#)).
3. If discipline is withheld when it should be exercised that is hatred ([Pr. 13:24](#)).
 - a. Who are we going to believe? God or the devil?

II. Discipline is Necessary

1. Discipline is a necessity in childrearing.
 - a. To withhold discipline is to hate my children, but if I love them I will discipline them as often as it is needed ([Pr. 13:24](#)).
 - b. Childhood is transient and basic principles must be instilled within children while there is hope ([Pr. 19:18](#)).
 - c. Disciplining is part of the training that each child must receive ([Pr. 22:6](#); [Eph. 6:4](#)).
 - d. Discipline is necessary to rid foolishness from the heart of a child ([Pr. 22:15](#)).
 - e. The disciplining instrument and words must be employed to teach wisdom ([Pr. 29:15](#)).
 - f. The exercise of discipline while they are young yields rest and delight when they are older ([Pr. 29:17](#)).
2. Discipline is necessary with personal trespasses within the church ([Mt. 18:15-20](#)).
 - a. Note there is a process which must be followed.

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- b. The trespass is told to the offender alone first ([Mt. 18:15](#)).
 - c. If that is unsuccessful, then one or two impartial witnesses are to be brought into the matter ([Mt. 18:16](#)).
 - d. If that is unsuccessful, then the matter is to be brought to the entire congregation ([Mt. 18:17](#)).
 - e. If all of this fails, then fellowship is to be withdrawn with that withdrawal being recognized by God ([Mt. 18:17-20](#)).
3. Discipline is necessary with those that walk disorderly within the church.
 - a. Warning is necessary ([1 Th. 5:14](#)).
 - b. If warning fails, then marking and withdrawal of fellowship is necessary ([2 Th. 3:11-15](#)).
 4. Discipline is necessary with those that cause divisions and offences contrary to the received doctrine.
 - a. Warning is necessary ([Tit. 3:10-11](#)).
 - b. After two warnings, if the divisive behavior is persisted in then marking and avoidance is necessary ([Rm. 16:17-18](#)).
 5. Discipline is necessary with those that go beyond the doctrine ([2 Jn. 9-11](#)).
 - a. Our ears and wallets must be shut, as with our doors, to the promotion of false teaching.
 6. Discipline is necessary congregationally ([Rev. 3:14-22](#)).
 - a. Hopefully this is a rarity but as seen with the congregation at Laodicea it is possible!

III. Examples of Discipline

1. The incestuous man ([1 Cor. 5](#)).
 - a. The discipline exercised on this man resulted in his repentance ([2 Cor. 2:1-11](#)).
2. Simon ([Ac. 8:18-24](#)).
 - a. The discipline exercised on Simon resulted in his repentance ([Ac. 8:24](#)).
3. Peter ([Gal. 2:11-21](#)).
 - a. Peter later spoke very highly of Paul and did not allow discipline to drive him away from the church ([2 Pt. 3:15](#)).
4. Hymenaeus and Alexander ([1 Tim. 1:19-20](#)).
 - a. It is alright to call names when necessary in discipline.
 - b. People need to be aware of disorderly and divisive people ([2 Tim. 4:14-15](#)).

Conclusion

1. Discipline is a blessing ([Ps. 94:12-15](#)).
2. The church absolutely practices discipline.
 - a. If she does not then she does not love souls who need correction.
3. Discipline is not a bad word as it is done out of love to produce righteousness ([Heb. 12:11](#)).
4. Accepting correction is wise ([Pr. 15:31-33](#)).