

When Discipline Ends

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 2:5-11.

B. Some form of discipline had been exercised, and since the man had repented, he writes to tell them how to respond appropriately. (Matthew 18)

II. The offender had to address the whole church because his wrong actions affected the whole body.

A. Repentance is concluding that what one does is hurtful and wrong.

B. There is sorrow that accompanies this--one begins to see the damage that he has done.

C. Forgiveness is always something extended to someone who does not feel he or she deserves it.

D. The whole process of discipline is to bring someone to recovery--this ends when someone comes to repentance.

III. How one is brought to restoration.

A. The place to start is with a faithful confrontation.

1. They must be obedient to the Lord.

2. The effect of righteousness is peace.

B. There must be a readiness to forgive when the believer has been restored.

1. Forgiveness is a promise one makes to God, the offender and to oneself.

2. One promises not to bring up offenses again.

3. It is a promise to God to drop the matter and never bring it up again.

4. It is a promise to put it aside when it comes up in the mind--the act of forgiveness must be forgiven no matter how many times the memory comes up.

5. The basis of Christian forgiveness is the forgiveness we have been given.

C. There is a need to keep Satan from taking advantage of us.

1. We are not to let the sun go down on our wrath.

2. Unresolved anger gives the devil an opportunity.

3. We turn off the attack of the enemy by dealing with these feelings in our own heart.

D. We are all in need of forgiveness, and God has forgiven us greatly.

Application questions:

1. What is the purpose of church discipline?

2. What is repentance? What would a phony attempt at repentance look like?

3. What stands out to you about the process of restoration personally? Explain.
