

## Who is subject to being disciplined by the church?

Some people don't want to become church members in order that they might not be under the authority of the local church but under the "authority of Jesus Christ alone".

1. How is church discipline carried out?

Matthew **18:15-17**  
Galatians **2:11-16**

1 Timothy **5:17-20**  
Proverbs **11:13-14**

Church discipline is first carried out personally and privately. The issue is not to be brought before the congregation at first. If the matter cannot be resolved personally then it is to be brought before a few selected individuals. Finally, if the matter still cannot be resolved in a small group then the matter is to be brought before the entire congregation. Notice though that the only requirement for 'who' is to be disciplined "a brother".

2. What is meant by "brother"?

Romans 12:4-5  
Ephesians **4:4-7**

1 Corinthians **12:12-20**

Since there is but 'one body', which is Christ's body, then every person who claims to be a believer in Jesus Christ would be a brother in Christ. This indicates that as long as a person claims to be a believer in Jesus Christ, then church discipline can be carried out. If the person is a member or regular attender of another local body of believers, it would probably be best to involve the person's primary church body in the discipline.

3. Why carry out church discipline?

Galatians **6:1-2**  
2 Corinthians 2:6-11

1 Corinthians **5:1-7**  
Titus **1:10-13**

There are three primary reasons to carry out church discipline. One reason is that without church discipline, some within the local body will think that the sinful acts of others is acceptable behavior and begin doing similar actions. Another reason is that as such behavior grows within the local body, those outside the local body will have nothing but blasphemous words about the local body and about the person of Christ as well. Another reason is that through the act of church discipline, it is hoped that the erring brother can be corrected and restored to proper fellowship with the local body and in right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. What boundaries are placed upon carrying out discipline?

1 Corinthians **5:9-13**

2 Corinthians **2:6-11**

One boundary related to church discipline is that it is not to be administered to those who are not Christians. It is left to God to judge righteously those who are not believers. It is the responsibility of the believer to communicate the truthfulness of man's sinfulness, God's righteousness, and God's justice. Another boundary is that discipline is not to be carried out in an excessive manner. As repentance becomes a reality, restoration of relationship ought to be extended.