

How does church discipline fit in with “Judge not, that ye be not judged”?

Many people (believers and unbelievers) think that Christ's call to not judge prohibits Christians from openly exposing the sinful activities of others. If this were so, then it would make church discipline a violation of that principle.

1. How is church discipline supposed to be carried out?

Matthew **18:15-17**

Proverbs **25:2**

Galatians 6:1-2

Church disciplines takes place when one believer who is concerned about the events of a brother's life becomes a concern so that the issues in the brother's life are openly discussed in order to achieve restoration of his relationship with Christ and with the Christian brethren. When the discussion first takes place, the sinning brother could either acknowledge his sinful behavior or justify himself. If the sinning brother refuses to repent then these who are incorporated in the discussion broadens to the point that the local church and possibly the wider church is brought into the discussion.

2. Should Christians openly expose the sins of another?

1 Corinthians **5:1-5**

Luke **3:7-9; 18:18-22**

Matthew 14:3-4; **23:13-15**, 23-30

2 Timothy **3:16-17; 4:1-4**

Titus **2:13-15**

Galatians **2:11-14**

Jesus and Paul used the scriptures of God in order to expose the sins of men both individually and collectively. Since we have been called by God and Christ to be like Christ and to do those things that He did, then it is only reasonable to understand that Christians are also called to expose the sins of others.

3. If judging others is not about exposing the sins of another, what could it be about?

Matthew **7:1-5**

Galatians **6:1-2**

Romans **12:3**

The call to refrain from judgment of others is to refrain from identifying its eternal consequences and to refrain from exalting oneself by demeaning others. By exposing the sins of others, to the sinner on a one-on-one basis first, is to be carried out through love for them and a desire to see them restored to fellowship with Christ in righteousness and humility. The call to refrain from judging others is actually a call to be careful and concerned more about the other person and to also recognize that for sin to continue unchecked can result in the sin growing and infecting others to their destruction.