

THE FELLOWSHIP:
CHURCH DISCIPLINE

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH?

“And they devoted themselves to *the apostle’s teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*”

- Acts 2:42

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH?

- *The Apostle's Teaching:*
 - Public Preaching. Public Reading.
 - Church Polity. Statement of Faith.
- *The Fellowship:*
 - Local Church Membership. Discipline. Serving.

WHY ARE ACCOUNTABILITY
AND DISCIPLINE SO OFTEN
VIEWED NEGATIVELY?

OLD TESTAMENT PICTURES

- **Adam & Eve. Genesis 3:22-24**

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- **Judah.** Jeremiah 30:10-11, 31:18
- **Jonah.** Jonah 1:1-3, 7, 15, 17

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“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, *and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*”

- Acts 2:38

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Conviction.** John 16:8-11
- **Indwelling.** Romans 8:9-11
- **Sanctification.** 1 Peter 1:2
- **Strengthening.** Ephesians 3:16

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- **Corporate Discernment.** 1 Corinthians 11:27-32
- **Corporate Forgiveness.** 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

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 - **Authorization = Matthew 18:18-20**

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 - **OT Wisdom:** Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 23:13; Proverbs 29:17

FINAL LESSONS

- **A Word about Judgement:**

- This side of 'Final Judgement' (by Christ alone), *every act of discipline is intended to reform and renew God's people*. On this side of Final Judgement, as we live by the call to holiness and through the discernment of the Holy Spirit, *no judgement is final*.

FINAL LESSONS

- **A Word about Goodness:**
 - God disciplines us *for our good*, that we may share his holiness (Hebrews 12:10).
 - And, what is *good for us*, is not often what pleases us, or makes us comfortable.

FINAL LESSONS

- **A Word about Christlikeness:**
 - Discipline is the vehicle God uses to admonish, rebuke and renew his people, *and conform them more and more into the image of His Son.*
 - Discipline, thus, *is an answer to our personal prayer, and our public desires for relational harmony.*

QUESTIONS?