



Seeing What We believe

1 Cor. 14:33, 40

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40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

❖ When church members believe and practice the same doctrine, unity prevails.

Psa. 133:1 **Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!***

Eph. 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

13 Till we all come in **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS
ARTICLE 1
NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2
STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.03—COVENANT

ARTICLE 3
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01—QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.02—DUTIES OF A MEMBER

SECTION 3.03—PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Tonight, we continue looking at “ARTICLE 3” of our Constitution and By-laws: DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER.

- ❖ Why is it necessary to include this section?
- ❖ A church is representative of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world. The Lord is particular about His testimony!

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That **he might sanctify and cleanse it** with the washing of water by the word,

27 That **he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

SECTION 3.04—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

(A) The pattern indicated in Mt. 18:15-18 shall be the basis for our church discipline. There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and the trustees/board of deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor or a trustee/deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The pastor and trustees/deacons shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

Mt. 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear *thee, then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, **tell it unto the church**: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18 Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders the spiritual growth and testimony of an individual in the local church or the body as a whole, **he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.**

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a trustee/deacon or the pastor, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, prayer, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, **the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.**

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, **such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.** The member subject to disciplinary action is not entitled to vote on his/her own discipline.

(F) The discipline committee may hear no matter, neither the church, unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

(G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, members of the church should have no social contact with him, and any contact from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration. Persons placed under church discipline must immediately return any property belonging to the church, and are not qualified to partake in the Lord's Supper.

(H) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

Mt. 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear *thee, then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, **tell it unto the church:** but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18 Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Rom. 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.**

18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

1 Cor. 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, **if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.**

12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

13 But them that are without God judgeth. **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

2 Cor. 2:1 But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness.

2 For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?

3 And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is *the joy* of you all.

4 For **out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved**, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

6 Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was inflicted* of many.

7 **So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.**

8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm *your* love toward him.

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

1 Thess. 5:14 Now we exhort you, **brethren, warn them that are unruly**, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

2 Thess. 3:6 Now we command you, **brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which he received of us. ...

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 And **if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.**

15 Yet **count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.**

1 Tim. 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

20 **Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.**

Titus 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition **reject**;

11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

SECTION 3.05—TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members not under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church of like faith.

Summary

- A church member should be regenerated, but sometimes one joins a church and is lost.

1 Cor. 11:18 For first of all, **when ye come together in the church**, I hear that there be **divisions among you**; and I partly believe it.

19 For **there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.**

- A lost person will eventually manifest fruit of being unsaved, and will sow discord within a church.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 **They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

- An unsaved, or backslidden church member that damages the testimony must be confronted. If repentance follows, then restitution of fellowship occurs.
- After following these guidelines, a member who remains unrepentant, must be removed from the membership of the church.
- Restoration of broken fellowship is always the goal of church discipline, Gal. 6:1.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 14:33 For **God is not *the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches*** of the saints.

40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

- When church members believe and practice the same doctrine, unity prevails.

Psa. 133:1 **Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

Eph. 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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