Introduction: Today and next week, we are going to discover how a proper understanding of grace should impact our attitude toward sin and sinners in the church.

I. The Dilemma Of Church Discipline

Matthew 7:1  “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.”

1 Corinthians 12:26-27   “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”

Matthew 28:19-20   19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

II. What Is Church Discipline?  (Matthew 18:15; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; James 5:19-20)

Definition of Church Discipline: The confrontive and corrective measures taken by an individual, church leaders, or the congregation regarding a matter of sin in the life of a believer. (by J. Laney)

Matthew 18:15   “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

1 Corinthians 5:12-13   12 “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.”
2 Thessalonians 3:14-15  14 “If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.  15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

James 5:19-20  19 “My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Hebrews 12:5-6  5 “…MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;  6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

Hebrews 12:8  “But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

III. The Purposes Of Church Discipline

A. To Reclaim a Christian Who Has Been Overtaken by Sin (Galatians 6:1-2)

Galatians 6:1-2  1 “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.  2 Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

B. To Maintain the Witness of the Church (1 Corinthians 5:1-2)

1 Corinthians 5:1-2  1 “It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife.  2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.”

1 Corinthians 5:12  “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?”
C. To Sustain the Health of the Congregation (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

1 Corinthians 5:6  “Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?”

1 Corinthians 5:7  “Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”

1 Corinthians 5:8  “Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Conclusion