

The Church Order on Discipline (#3) (BG 2023)

The Act of Discipline According to Matt 18

* Review: Week #1: The *subjects* of discipline. Week #2: The *objects* of discipline.

** Tonight: How discipline takes place before it gets to the consistory.

*** Next week: How the consistory acts when reports of sin come to them.

1. The Attitude: Matt 18 emphasizes a proper *attitude* before any action

A proper attitude is required, in part, because discipline is so painful it's either omitted or perverted

The attitude is the disposition of love.

Love for the brother

Love for the church

Love for God

This disposition of love reflects the 'spirituality' of which Galatians 6:1 speaks

2. The Act: Matt 18 covers all the elements of discipline, beginning to end

First, a private admonition of the sinner: "tell him his fault between thee and him alone"

Second, if no repentance, another private admonition with witnesses: "take with thee one or two"

Third, if no repentance, the 2 or 3 inform the consistory: "tell the church"

Fourth, if still no repentance, final excommunication: "let him be unto thee as an heathen man..."

3. The Exceptions: Matt 18 does not require *private* admonition for *all* sins

There are four circumstances when a private admonition of a private sin is not *permitted*:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

This view has good historical precedent.

This view comes from a *proper* understanding of Matthew 18.