

HARMONIZATION OF BIBLICAL PASSAGES ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Scripture	Matthew 18:15-17	1 Corinthians 5	2 Thessalonians 3:6-15	Tit 3:10-11	Rom 16:17-18
Authority		When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, (v 4) . . . I wrote to you in my letter. (v 9a)	Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . (v 6a)		I appeal to you, brothers, (v 17a)
Process 1: Personally Admonish	If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. (vv 15-16)	I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people . . . (v 9) [Also, personal admonishment may have already happened.]	<i>Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.</i> (v 15) [But we urge you, brothers, . . . to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. (1 Thess 4:11-12) And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle . . . (1 Thess 5:14a)]	As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once . . . (v 10a)	. . . to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; . . . (v 17b)
Process 2: Corporately Admonish	If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. (v 17a)	It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you (v 1a) . . . with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is <i>guilty</i> of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler . . . (v 11b)	If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, . . . (v 14a) Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. (v 15)	. . . and then twice . . . (v 10b)	
Process 3: Corporately Remove	And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (v 17b)	Let him who has done this be removed from among you. (v 2) . . . you are to deliver this man to Satan . . . (v 5a) I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, . . . But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty . . . not even to eat with such a one. (vv 9-11) Purge the evil person from among you. (v13) [cf. 2 Cor 2:6]	. . . that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. (v 6b) . . . and have nothing to do with him . . . (v 14b) [?] <i>For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.</i> (v 10) [cf. v 8!]	. . . have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. (vv 10c-11)	. . . avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. (vv 17c-18)
Goal: Restoration	. . . <i>If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.</i> (v 15b)	for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (v 5b)	. . . that he may be ashamed. (v 14c)		

Other Goals of Church Discipline (see Kevin Bauder, *Baptist Distinctives*, 65-67):

1. To provide a consistent, holy testimony of the church in the broader community (1 Cor 5:1).
2. To halt the spread of sin (1 Cor 5:6).
3. To maintain the clarity of the gospel and the purity of fellowship with Christ (1 Cor 5:7-8).

THE CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF 2 THESS 3:6-15

From Chuck J. Bumgardner, "'As a Brother': 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 and Ecclesiastical Separation," *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 14 (2009): 56.

- (3:6a) A Now we **command** you, brothers, **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**,
- (3:6b) B that you withdraw yourselves from every brother who is **living in a disorderly way**,
- (3:6c) C that is, not according to the tradition which they received from us.
- (3:7a) D For you yourselves know how it is necessary **to imitate us**,
- (3:7b–8a) E because we were not disorderly among you, that is, we did not eat anyone's bread without paying,
- (3:8b) E' working instead with labor and toil, night and day, so as not to burden any of you;
- (3:9) D' not because we do not have that right, but so that we might provide ourselves an example to you, in order for you **to imitate us**.
- (3:10) C' For even when we were with you, this is what we were commanding you: "If anyone will not work, neither let him eat."
- (3:11) B' For we hear that some are **living** among you in **a disorderly way**, not working at all but meddling.
- (3:12) A' Now such people we **command** and exhort **in the Lord Jesus Christ** that working with quietness they should eat their own bread.
- (3:13–15) But you, brothers, do not be weary in doing what is right. Instead, if anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person so as not to associate with him, so that he might be put to shame; and do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.