

**For the week of October 22-28, 2017**

**Based on Pastor Reggie's message from October 22**

### **Proper Church Discipline**

**Best Way to Prepare for Your Group?** Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

### **[Format for the Evening]**

#### **WELCOME:**

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

**KEY PASSAGE:** *"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. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." –Matthew 18:15-22 ESV*

### **GOD'S LOVE IS THE DRIVING FORCE OF DISCIPLINE**

When it comes to church discipline, most people aren't knowledgeable about how the Bible says to handle it. There are several misconceptions about how to even describe what church discipline is. Before the discussions get underway, it is important to remember that God has a goal and a driving motive in church discipline.

#### **DISCUSS:**

1. First read Hebrews 12:5-8 and discuss the main point of those four verses.
2. What are God's goal and driving motive for discipline as described in these verses?
3. Discuss some common misconceptions you may have heard about church discipline and how they contradict the heart of God in Hebrews 12.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN THE CHURCH BODY**

In Matthew 18:15-18, Jesus gives authority to the entire church body, not just the pastors and elders, to handle moral failures and conflicts among themselves (Matthew 18:15-18). He also gives a specific process by which church discipline is to be carried out by the people of the body. In 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 Paul adds that we should be able to find wise, doctrinally sound people to aid us in handling disputes among us.

### **DISCUSS:**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 together and discuss the main point of Paul's message to the church here.
2. Next carefully read and discuss the processes of church discipline (the how to's) and the differing variations based on Matthew 18:15-22, 1 Timothy 5:19-21, and 1 Corinthians 5:4-6.

## **WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE SHOULD BE MUST ALIGN**

Historically the church has missed a great opportunity to set itself apart. We have the power and the resources to make our gatherings both safe and healing to those who are hurting and bound by certain sins. Unfortunately, slander, hypocrisy, and gossip have been far too prevalent within church culture over the past century. In the parable of the sheep, Jesus quietly shares the responsibility of the body to adopt the heart of God toward the sinning believer. We are called to "Go" get the lost sheep and bring them back into the fold. Imagine a church where drunkards, porn addicts, homosexuals, adulterers, and liars can come clean, confessing their sin amongst the body of believers without the fear of castigation. Imagine if the people in the body were so bold as to knock on the doors of those who, for fear of "church discipline," have stopped coming to the church. What we have been and what we should be must align.

### **DISCUSS:**

1. Together, carefully read Matthew 18:10-14, the parable of the lost sheep, and discuss what it says about: God, the church, and you as a member of the body.
2. How does the knowledge of how we should "go" and get the stray sheep change your approach to another brother or sister's sin?
3. How could this approach change both the reputation and the culture of the church for the unbeliever standing on the outside looking in?

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Forgiveness is a non-negotiable element of being a follower of Christ. Jesus puts a heavy mandate upon every believer in that we are commanded to forgive one another. Every other part of the process of repentance, reconciliation, and restoration is presented as sound teaching about what we should do. Forgiveness is commanded as the central element of making everything else possible. There should always be forgiveness found in repentance. Forgiveness paves the way to reconciliation. Restoration is built upon the foundation of forgiveness.

**DISCUSS:**

1. In Matthew 18:21-22 Jesus and Peter dialogue about forgiveness. Read the passage together and try to come up with the clear statement that is being made by Jesus in His answer to Peter.
2. Discuss how the parable of the unforgiving servant applies to the individuals of the church today.
3. What is the impact that this mandate should have, not just on church discipline, but our everyday interpersonal relationships?

**TAKE TIME TO PRAY:**

Please pray that God would show believers how to live like Jesus, empowered by the leading of the Holy Spirit so that their divinely inspired and life-changing love reveals God to the world around them. Pray that the lives of the family members at Calvary Boise glorify God and draw others into His Kingdom. Pray that we will be actively engaged in pursuing revival.

**TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:**

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

***Note:** Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at [tucker@ccboise.org](mailto:tucker@ccboise.org) with your insight.*

## **WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS**

*“Now while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin, and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God.” –Daniel 9:20*

The very essence and specialty of secret prayer, so it seems to me, is that it should express most freely, whatever else it deals with, the movements of the individual spirit, confessing inmost personal sins, giving praise for personally received mercies, (both of providence and grace) worshipping in view of personal insights into the Lord’s great glory, supplicating regarding the deepest needs, and the simplest needs, of the individual man, and interceding for individuals in the freest detail and name by name. All this brings with it the question of how best to organize it all in some reverent manner so that in our unwatched secrecy we will make the best use of our thoughts and words. –H.C.G. Moule

**About the Author:** Handley Carr Glyn Moule, British author and educator, was a dean at Trinity College, Cambridge, and held various positions as professor of divinity. Closely associated with the Keswick Convention, he was a dedicated evangelical who had a great understanding of other views. He lived from 1841 until 1920.

### **Our Community Group:**

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### **Prayer Requests for Our International Missions**

- Please pray for the beginning stages of vision casting and trip planning for the first few missions for next year. Please also pray for the formulation of our 2018-2020 short-term mission trip calendar.
- Natalie Bridges in Romania asks for prayer for the following: After much prayer and many interviews, we have two new children to fill the open spots in our after-school program. Both families are in desperate need of help and we know God will use us to bless them. We appreciate your prayers for their quick adjustment to the routine and rules as it will be quite a change from what they are used to.

### **Prayer Requests for our Local Ministry**

- Please pray for the women and the leadership team for Women’s Ministry. We have such amazing opportunities to serve and bless the ladies and I pray we do it in unity and with the right hearts.
- Pray for Chris who we met at the homeless outreach, he responded with anger when the gospel was shared. May God use the words that were shared to do a work in his life and bring him to a saving knowledge of Jesus.
- Our new school administrator at Calvary Christian School asks for prayer that she would lead in His love and wisdom and be found in the middle of His will in all of the decisions that she makes for our school.