



Church Polity in the Book of Acts

Acts 5:1-11

5/12/19 PM

THE CHURCH EXERCISING DISCIPLINE

Introduction:

- ❶ Nadab and Abihu (“strange fire on the altar”)
- ❷ Uzzah (touched the Ark while going into Jerusalem)
- ❸ Annanias and Sapphira

I. CHURCH DISCIPLINE IN ACTS (Acts 5:1-11)

A. What does this text teach us about giving?

- 1) it was voluntary
- 2) it was toward specific needs
- 3) it was in the form of contributions

I Corinthians 16:1-2

- periodic - “on the first day of the week”
- plenary - “let every one of you”
- purposeful - “should set aside a sum”
- personal - “set aside by himself” [middle voice in Greek]
- proportional - “in keeping with his income”
- providential - “saving it up”
- preventative - “so that when I come no collections will have to be made”

B. What does this text teach us about church order?

- 1) the church is still under the leadership of the apostles (vs. 1)
- 2) the leadership monitored individual behavior and kept people accountable (vs. 3f & 8f)
- 3) there were younger “understudies” (vs. 6)
- 4) there was a recognizable membership (“the whole church” - vs. 11)
- 5) the public testimony of the church was significant (vs. 11)

C. What does this text teach us about church discipline?

- 1) the leadership is responsible (vs. 3, 8-9)
- 2) it follows questioning to determine the truth of the matter
- 3) it takes place publically (vs. 10-11)
- 4) it produces...
 - fear (vs. 11)
 - unity (vs. 12)
 - purity (vs. 13)
 - growth

II. CHURCH DISCIPLINE IN THE REST OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. The Teaching of Jesus (Matthew 18:15-18)

- 1) private reproof (vs. 15)
- 2) private conference (vs. 16)
- 3) public announcement (vs. 17)
- 4) public exclusion (vs. 18)

B. The Teaching of Paul

- 1) personal appeal (I Timothy 5:1)
- 2) sharp rebuke (Titus 1:13)
- 3) need for witnesses (I Timothy 5:19)
- 4) public censure (I Timothy 5:20)

III. CHURCH DISCIPLINE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

A. What forms can/should church discipline take?

B. What is the motivation for church discipline? (Heb. 12:5-13)

C. What is the purpose of church discipline?

- restore to a former healthy condition (Galatians 6:1-2)
- produce healthy faith (Titus 1:13)
- encourage spiritual healing (Hebrews 12:10-11)

D. What are the difficulties of initiating church discipline?

E. What are the results of neglecting church discipline?

- 1) lack of purity
- 2) lack of power
- 3) lack of progress

Conclusion:

- 1) When we sin, God knows every detail.
- 2) God's punishment, whether swift or slow, is certain.
- 3) Your actions can give Satan an opportunity to thwart the progress of God's work.
- 4) God's blessing slows or stops.
- 5) When the sin is confessed, the blessing may continue.