

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Matthew 18.15-35

FRIENDSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP, AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Matthew 18.15-20

This passage, along with 1 Corinthians 5, is the most clear picture of what we commonly call “church discipline.” Many churches, if not most, don’t really do what is called upon here. But it is terribly important for the health of the church, as well as the person in sin, as it exudes not only love for the person and the church, but also a deep love for Christ.

**Punishment is meant to make someone pay,
discipline is to help someone grow.**

If someone is in sin...

1. Go directly to them privately. This is best done in the context of real friendship.
2. If they don’t repent, go with others who also love them.
3. If they persist in unrepentant sin, go to church leaders.

BINDING, LOOSING, AND DOING GOD’S WILL

1 Corinthians 5.1-13

The curious statement that what we bind and loose on earth will be done so in heaven is interesting. It reminds us that though God can do what He wants as He wants it, He has chosen to use us, His church, to do His will. He specifically has given the church the authority to enact His judgments and discipline. He honors what the church does in His Name. This does *not* mean the church can do anything she wants or is infallible, but rather that *when she acts in Jesus’ Name and according to His will*, He will back it up.

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. **–Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

FORGIVING 70X7

The goal of forgiving someone is to see them restored unto Christ. We don’t take sides, unless the side we take is the side of Christ and His righteousness. We should want to see everyone, the sinner and the sinned against, to be victorious and to succeed in Christ.

1 Corinthians 13.4-7 // Matthew 18.21-35

**When a confessed, repentant, and forgiven man walks into a church,
he has the potential to be the most free man in the church.**

Micah 7.18, 19



NOTES:

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We’d LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we’d love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you’ve ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you’re **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups**! You’ll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won’t regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at **lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give** or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns – 5th grade**. Please visit **lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids** to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey’s heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

Our **High School students** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at **hbarnes5@yahoo.com**.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 18:15-35**. What stuck out to you the most in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

On Sunday, Jobey talked about church disciple and how it starts on a friendship level. In reading this week's text, what would the biblical process look like for "calling out" or rebuking a friend in love? List the steps. _____

Read **Hebrews 12:5-9**. What's the difference between punishment and discipline? _____

Read **Hebrews 12:10-14**. Why do we as Christians need to hold each other accountable, call out sin and lovingly rebuke one another? What's the main goal? _____

How do you react when a friend, spouse or church leader lovingly "calls you out" on a sin in your life, or reveals a "blind spot"? If so, how did you react? If you reacted negatively what would you do different next time? When receiving loving rebuke how do you typically respond? _____

Read **Hebrews 12:1-4**. How will we see discipline as something done for our own good and growth? Who and what do we need to be constantly gazing at? _____

Who in your life that has hurt you and you need to forgive? Do you want to see them succeed in Christ, or do you want to see them pay for what they did? Consider the story Jesus told in Matthew 18:21-35. How does your attitude or desire reflect best in the story? Are you like the man who demanded that someone who owed him something should pay him back or be punished? If so, what will help your heart to change? _____

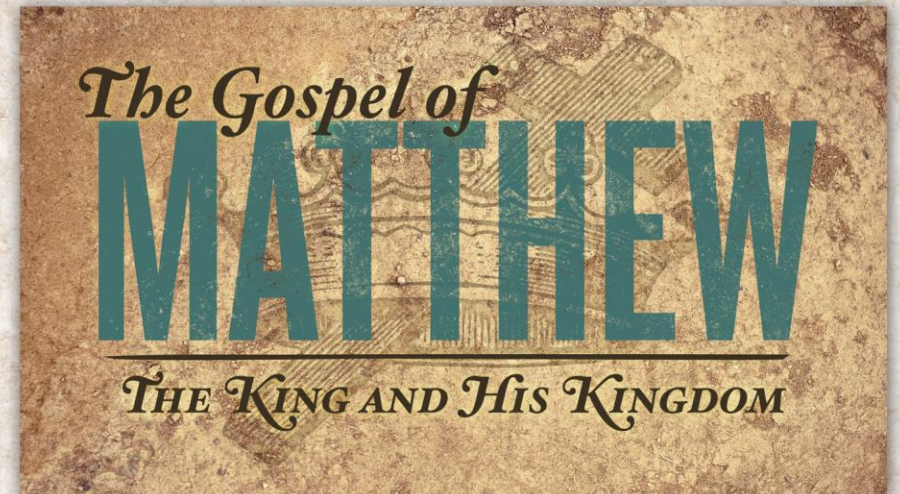
End group and your personal study time with prayer. Pray using the P.R.A.Y. model. PREACH the Gospel, reminding one another that because Jesus has humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross now we have access to God the Father. Confess and repent of not seeing both the Bigness and Smallness of God. The Bigness that controls everything, the smallness that showed us how relational He is. Then ASK for the Holy Spirit, who is your Helper and with you to continue to increase your view of the awesomeness of your Father. Ask Him to help you turn to prayer more, the Word more and your Gospel-centered friends. Lastly, YIELD, with thanksgiving.



LIFE MISSION
CHURCH

Pastor Jobey McGinty
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**Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.**



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Matthew 18:15-35 // September 13, 2015

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

**Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025**

