Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for February 7, 2010

Church discipline
Matthew 18:15-17

Church discipline refers to the process that is spelled out for us in Matthew 18:15-17 that is to be initiated by the church when they believe a brother or sister in Christ is choosing to live in sin.

The first step in the process of church discipline is to go to the sinning brother or sister in Christ in private (Matthew 18:15).

The second step in the process of church discipline is to go to the sinning brother or sister with one or two others (Matthew 18:16).

The third step of church discipline is telling it to the church (Matthew 18:17).

The fourth and final step of church discipline is to break off all social contact (Matthew 18:17).

Practicing church discipline in obedience to Christ and seeking to rescue sinning brothers and sisters is necessary in order to protect the gospel message (Romans 6:22).

Practicing church discipline in obedience to Christ and seeking to rescue sinning brothers and sisters is necessary in order to protect the spiritual welfare of our church (1 Corinthians 5:6).

Practicing church discipline in obedience to Christ and seeking to rescue sinning brothers and sisters is necessary in order to protect them from the possibility of a misplaced hope (Matthew 7:21-23).

When individuals among us choose to live in sin, may we by the grace of God and because of our love for Him, His word, and His people be willing to exercise church discipline when necessary.