

## The accountable church

1 Corinthians 5:1-13/Matthew 18:15-20, p. 926, 799

### I. CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS INTENDED TO SPIRITUALLY BENEFIT THOSE IN SERIOUS SIN (1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5).

- A. The incest of a man in the church damaged the church's reputation, being repulsive even to unbelievers (5:1).
- B. The church prided themselves on their tolerance instead of addressing the man's sin (5:2).
- C. Paul instructed the church to remove him from the fellowship of the church when gathered in the presence of Jesus (5:3-4).
- D. Discipline would force the man to decide on Satan's world or fellowship with the church so he would hopefully repent (5:5).

#### Jesus' process of accountability in the church (Matthew 18:15-20)

- 1. If someone sins against you, approach them personally (15).
- 2. If he/she refuses to hear you, take 2-3 witnesses (16).
- 3. If he/she refuses to hear them, tell the church (17).
- 4. If he/she refuses to repent, remove from fellowship (18).
- 5. Jesus is present in this corporate act of discipline (19-20).

### II. CHURCH DISCIPLINE SPIRITUALLY BENEFITS THE CHURCH FAMILY (1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8).

- A. Ignored sin affects churches like yeast affects dough (5:6).
- B. Like removing yeast at Passover, removing sin honors Christ who was sacrificed for our sin (5:7).
- C. A church worships Christ by maintaining holiness (5:8).

### III. CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS FOR SERIOUS SIN IMPACTING THE CHURCH AND ITS REPUTATION (1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-13).

- A. Church discipline means not socializing with believers (not people of the world) who persist in serious sin (5:9-11).
- B. The church is not responsible to judge sinners in the world (God does that), but rather those in the church family (5:12-13).