



Trait #8- No Discipline
Day 1

"The goal of church discipline is always repentance, never separation. The result of sin is separation, the result of repentance is reconciliation".

To repent (repentance): to feel sincere regret and abhorrence (repulsion) for one's sins (past or present) and turning 180% from that sin back to God

Read Titus 1:9

contradict: to deny the truth of by asserting the opposite, to be in conflict with (the scriptures in this case)

Read Matthew 18:15-17; Let's take a look at the process....

1. If a brother sins, go tell him his fault
2. If he doesn't listen or change, take one or two more
3. If still no change tell it to the church
4. Finally excommunicate him

Note: A heathen and a tax collector: Jews considered both heathens and tax collectors to be excluded from the community of God's people

Read 1 Timothy 5:20-21; " Those who are sinning **rebuke** in the presence of **all, that the rest also may fear..... observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality**".

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14-15 (special attention to vs. 15)

What all these verses are saying is simply this: The goal of the church is to lead the person that is in sin back to God. Hopefully that can be done with the person doing the sinning coming to repentance and seeing the error of their way, when approached. **However the churches ultimate goal is to reconcile the sinner back to God... READ 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**



Trait #8- No Discipline
Day 2

Lets say your child crosses the street without looking to get his or her ball, and you see this. Do you do nothing? The kid, in his blind ignorance, doesn't know any better. You being a good parent would correct your child right? There were only 2 times in Josiah's life that I can remember spanking him. One of those times he was 3 years old and he did the above. Out of my love for him, I spanked him a good one. HE NEVER CROSSED THE STREET WITHOUT LOOKING AGAIN! Did I do this because I am mean? NO, I did this because I didn't want any harm to come to him. How would he have known the potential harm coming to him unless he was shown in a way he would never forget? Even as parents we can remember being corrected as kids ourselves. Looking back we understand (hopefully). **Why then, if your pastor (or any brother or sister in Christ) were to approach you or I about a sin in our life, do we get offended, mad and leave the church? We may even say to ourselves, "Who does he(she) think they are"?** Yet can't you see this what a pastor's job is? In fact he is directly charged by God Himself to do this without partiality. As we saw in yesterday's devotions. Tough job if you ask me!

Read Hebrews 12:3-13;

This is speaking of enduring correction (from God OUR Father). God's correction can come in many forms. One of which is through our spiritual leaders. And that's just one of many, many ways. Reread verses 11-13.... This is the goal of a good, loving "pastor" when he corrects. Remember: "pastor" actually is translated shepherd. Shepherd of what? Those whom GOD has placed within his care!

Read Galatians 6:1-3: The goal of correction is to see repentance in the individual being corrected. Once that happens take note to verse 1 and that is the goal of the pastor



Trait #8- No Discipline
Day 3

Acts 3:19-20; "So repent" (change your mind and purpose, turn 180% from your sin and return to God, look upon your sins past and present with abhorrence); "turn around and return" (to God), "that your sins may be erased" (blotted out, wiped clean) "that times of refreshing" (of recovering from the effects of heat, of reviving with fresh air and cold water) "may come from the presence of the Lord".

1 John 1:9; If we (freely) admit we have sinned and confess our sins, He is Faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins (dismiss our lawlessness) and (continuously) cleanse us from all unrighteousness (everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought and action)".

Read Luke 15:11-32;

This story of the lost (prodigal) son is exactly what being poor in spirit means. The son realized the error of his ways, humbled himself and said... I can't do it own my own, I need help! I will return to my father and be his servant. And so it is with us!

Read Matthew 5:3

Are you poor in spirit?

Are you man (or woman) enough to admit the error of your ways?

Because to such belong the Kingdom of Heaven



Trait #8- No Discipline
Day 4

Repentance: To make a 180 degree turn from your sinful life and "run" back to God. To look upon your sin with abhorrence and not go back.

Remorse: To feel sorry for your actions, but do nothing about it. To be sorrowful (mainly because of the consequences that have befallen you)

I Challenge you to know and remember the difference between these two words (biblical definitions).

Example Scripture for REMORSE: Hebrews 12:14-17 (Gen. 27:30-40)

Tomorrow we will get into the example scripture for repentance.

More on remorse: **Read Matthew 27:1-10;**

In other words: To be full of remorse over your sin is more **self**-centered than **God**-centered.

Nothing more for today, **but** prepare your heart for tomorrow. For tomorrow we will look at a man full of mistakes. A man who seemed to mess up everytime he turned around. A man we as Christians hold in high regards. Even considered a "bible hero" if you will. You may ask, "how could this be"? **The answer (and the clue to who it is): It's all a matter of the heart!**



Trait #8- No Discipline
Day 5

Read 1 Samuel 15:17-26; **This is what remorse is!** King Saul disobeyed God out of fear of man. Judgement was passed. And immediately Saul was remorseful for his actions, due to the consequences that befall him.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7;

When scripture is speaking of the "heart", what is it speaking of exactly?

It is talking of who you are inside. The essence of you. Including but not secluded to your thoughts, feelings, emotions and inner intentions! In other words, the part of you, that makes you ,you!

Now, today is Friday, between now and Sunday morning your homework is to read 2 Samuel chapter 11 to chapter 12:25

But for now i want you to read: Psalm 51; this is the prayer that David prayed after being confronted by Nathan the Prophet in the above homework reading. This is a model prayer for us. When you read this Psalm feel the heart by which David pours out here. It's gut wrenching. You can actually feel how hurt he was that he hurt God! And when you read the story, he lost his son because of his sin. **I'm sure that was painful to him, But that is not why Psalm 51 was written. David accepted the consequences of his actions. And despite that, he had true heart felt repentance with sorrow for his ungodly actions. Perhaps this is why he is held as a biblical hero!**

Remember: our repentance should be out of true love for our Savior Jesus Christ, and the realization that He purchased you with His own BLOOD!