

EPISODE: 529

TITLE: **Church Discipline That Heals, Not Harms**

So much of what is written about church discipline is steeped in old covenant, temple theology, and language. Jesus has already forgiven *every* sin!

Here are three things to believe and consider about church discipline and addressing people who sin against you...

1. **Discipline in the church and community is about discipleship and restoration.** Your goal is to help the other person move from unbelief to belief in the Gospel. It is always done in private first and only includes others after you have not been able to come to resolution with the other person. Beware of gossip here! Include others that have observed the same sin in the other person when possible or only those who are mature and trustworthy, otherwise.
2. **God's desire is that none of us, or *anybody*, should be lost or stay outside of his Family.** 2 Peter 8:8-9 *"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* Be patient with others just as the Lord is patient with you. God's offer of forgiveness is way beyond 70 X 7!
3. **Examine your own heart and actions** in any matter before being quick to approach and accuse someone else of sinning against you. Then go to that person in humility as a fellow sinner—someone who often acts out in unbelief and fear yourself—and start by confessing anything you need to own up to in the situation. Then try your best to explain to them why what exactly they have done or said hurt you and why you believe it is coming from a lie about God, you or themselves they may be believing. Be sure to pray for the Spirit's wisdom to guide you before, during, and after such circumstances. Remember: the Holy Spirit grants repentance unto salvation (freedom) it is all His work!

Discipline and discipleship have the same goals: leading others to believe what is true about God, themselves, and how we *get* to live together!

If you are interested in coaching and mentorship with Caesar and his wife, Tina, to learn a lifestyle of discipleship and mission, take your first step... Start experiencing greater spiritual freedom and relational peace today! Go to: everydaydisciple.com/coaching

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

~*Caesar*