



“Search and Rescue”
Matthew 18:15-20
Sermon Date: July 25, 2010

Prayer:

Pray through Psalm 139. In other words, as you are reading through it take time to stop and make certain sections or verses your own prayer before the Lord. Ask that the Lord would search your heart, that He would reveal to you those parts of it that are hardened to the truth of Scripture and leading to sin, and that He would lead you in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23-24).

Scripture:

Read the following passages and write down what they tell us about church discipline and restoration.

Matthew 18:15-20 –

1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 6-13 –

Galatians 6:1-5 –

Study Questions:

Church Discipline and restoration is a topic that, generally speaking, people do not like to talk about. Why is it that members of any given church body are afraid to talk about this issue? Is there something about being held accountable that makes this a difficult topic for you to think about?

What are the Biblical goals for confronting a fellow follower of Christ who has fallen into sin (Gal. 6:1, 1 Cor. 5:5, 2 Thess. 3:14)?

According to Matthew 18:15-16, what is the correct process that one should go through prior to the church leadership getting involved? Are you willing to confront people about their sin out of genuine love for them (2 Thess. 3:15), with an eagerness to forgive them (Matt. 18:21-22), and in a gentle manner (Gal. 6:1)? Why or why not?

Why is it so important that the church follow through with church discipline when necessary (1 Cor. 5:6-8, 1 Tim. 1:19-20, 1 Tim. 5:20)? In what ways does properly executed church discipline promote church health?

“All who desire to remove discipline or to hinder its restoration, whether they do so deliberately or out of ignorance, are surely contributing to the ultimate dissolution of the church.”

John Calvin