

When a church pursues holiness

Matthew 18:15-20

Main lesson: In order for the church to make a difference in the world it must pursue holiness through church discipline

Introduction

When a church pursues holiness it must carry out church discipline

1. because the glory of God is at stake (Acts 5:11)
2. to prevent the Lord setting Himself against the church (Rev 2-3)
3. because the purity of the church is at stake (1 Cor 5:7)
4. because the value of the sinner is too great (Matt 18:10-14)
5. because Christ our Lord commands it (Matt 18:15-20)

When a church pursues holiness through discipline it should be done biblically (vv.15-17)

Firstly, confront the unrepentant privately (v. 15)

Secondly, take one or two others (v. 16)

Thirdly, take it to the church (v. 17a)

Fourthly, release the unrepentant to the world (v. 17b; 1 Cor 5:5)

When a church pursues holiness through discipline it is affirmed by heaven (vv. 18-20)

Conclusion