Church Discipline – the PROCESS

- 1. In Matthew 18 Jesus outlines the step-by-step process that is to be followed when there is sin in the church
 - (Mt 18:15-20)
- 2. The context of the passage sheds light onto the practice of "church discipline"

Matthew 18

- -: 1-6 = who will be greatest in the kingdom
 - unless you become like a child and humble yourselves you will not enter
 - do not cause the little ones to stumble
- -: 7-11 = stumbling blocks

#4625 σκάνδαλον skandalon

- = the trigger of a trap on which the bait is placed
- = always denotes an enticement to conduct which could ruin the person in question
 - → those causing people to sin
- woe to the world for its stumbling blocks
- woe to him through whom they come
- do whatever it takes to escape hell
- -:12-14 = 100 sheep
 - a man will leave 99 sheep to go and search for one that has strayed
 - he will rejoice more over the one sheep that he finds than over the 99
 - it is not the Father's will that one of the little ones perish

- -: 15-20 = if your brother sins ...
 - whatever you bind or loose
 - if two of you agree about anything
 - where 2 or 3 are gathered I am there
- :21-35 = forgiveness ...
- 3. If your brother sins

#264 ἀμαρτάνω hamartano

- = to wander from the law of God
- = to violate God's law → to sin
- = to do or go wrong

STEP #1 - v15

- go to him, show him his fault
 - #1651 ἐλέγχω elegcho
 - = to call to account, reprove, admonish
 - = to convince of error
 - = implying that there is adequate proof
- in private = between you and him alone
 - → if he listens you won your brother #2770 κερδαίνω kerdaino
 - = gain arising from escaping evil
 - = to gain in addition
 - # if he does not listen



STFP #2 - v16

- go to him taking one or two more with you
- they serve as witnesses
 - **x** if he refuses to listen



STEP #3 - v17

- tell it to the church
- openly, publicly, the church, under the leadership of elders, must confront the offender with his sin and his unrepentance
 - # if he refuses to listen even to the church

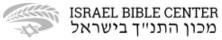


→ consider him to be an unsaved person

STFP #4 - v18-20

- the leadership must decide an appropriate course of action
- they will carefully determine what will be forbidden (bound) and what will be permitted (loosed)
- as they prayerfully come to agreement, the Lord Jesus promises that
 - a) the Father will give them what they ask
 - b) He Himself will be there in their midst
- 4. The goal of the process is forgiveness and restoration and reconciliation

Binding and loosing are known technical legal expressions in the ancient Jewish world. "To bind" is to restrict, to confine, to limit and in legal sense "to forbid something". On the opposite side "to loose" is to unbind, to untie, to free, to release which in a legal sense means "to permit something". Pinchas Shir



(see also Matthew 16:18-19)