

CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND THE DANGERS OF CULTURAL CONFORMITY

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-15 (ESV)

I. It's easy for Christians to unwittingly adopt _____, _____, or unhelpful cultural norms.

A. When the world _____ differently from us, Christians feel _____ pressure to ignore Scripture and conform to the world.

B. Our inward fleshly _____, _____ by what we see in the world, pressure us to ignore Scripture and conform to the world:

1. A desire for physical _____ and ease,
2. A desire for _____ and the lifestyle it affords, and
3. A desire for position, _____, and others' admiration.

C. Good desires go bad, when we make them _____ or when we satisfy them _____ of God's expressed will.

II. When Christians adopt these worldly norms, church _____ lovingly calls them to _____ and holiness.

A. Church discipline is a means by which Christians lovingly
_____ one another toward _____ living.

1. When a Christian is clearly living in unrepentant sin, it
should first be addressed _____ and/or
_____.

a. The biggest challenge in church discipline is doing this
_____ step well, because it demands
_____ love between church members.

2. If they resolutely _____ to _____ and obey
the Lord, the process escalates (Matthew 18:16-17).

B. The intent of church discipline is...

1. To encourage the one disciplined to look _____ and
take their sin seriously.

2. To invite the one disciplined back to repentance and
_____.

3. To protect all of us from the tendency to _____ our
own sin.