



Mediation and Restoration

Church mediation and discipline is an important and sometimes arduous responsibility of the whole Church and should not be pursued without serious prayer and ascertaining all the facts in a situation.

The goal of discipline is repentance and restoration to true fellowship with God and with fellow believers. It is sometimes necessary in order to awaken offenders to the destructive consequences of willful and continuing sin. True discipline ultimately *"yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness"* (Hebrews 12:11) and should not be neglected, lest the whole church suffer.

In this age of hyper-litigation everyone is encouraged to heed the biblical command not to take a Christian brother or sister to court. Issues between members in the Church should be resolved within mediation within the church at all costs so as to maintain unity and a faithful witness to the community. Restoration and relational unity are our ultimate goal with this process.

Church mediation and discipline should always be pursued prayerfully and done in a spirit of gentleness, patience and love. Although the whole Church is called to confront one another biblically, the Directional Team is responsible for carrying out the final steps of church discipline. It is a process which may not always achieve the desired outcome of restoration and therefore may result in an individual being asked to leave the church.

(Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; Luke 17:3; 1 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8)