

DIVINE DISCIPLINE

Request: “What do you think about a person who professed to have been saved, but now lives in open sin? Do you think that this person will go to heaven if he dies in this state?”

The writer of Hebrew addressed this very issue in our lesson text. This passage teaches that undisciplined sin is a sign of an unsaved religious person: (Heb.12:8)

“But (de of contrast to Heb.12:7) if (1cc) [true] you are without discipline (choris paideia), of which all have become partakers, then (ara) you are illegitimate children (nothos) and not sons (huioi).”

Our lesson text teaches that divine discipline of a believer is a **normal** part of life in the family of God.

Note these 10 facts about divine discipline from our lesson text.

- God disciplines his children (Heb.12:5, 7).
- He disciplines in love (Heb.12:6).
- Believers endure because of divine discipline (Heb.12:7, 9).
- Continuous sinning without discipline means that person is not a child of God (Heb.12:8).
- God’s discipline is intended to develop submission to Him as the Father (Heb.12:9).
- Discipline is for the good of the believer (Heb.12:10).
- Discipline is designed to result in sharing in God’s holiness (Heb.12:10).
- God’s discipline is sorrowful (Heb.12:11).
- Discipline is designed to train the believer spiritually (Heb.12:11).
- Discipline will yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness (Heb.12:11).

This lesson will study five aspects of Divine Discipline of Church Age Believers (CAB).
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1. There is a struggle inside the life of every CAB between the Old Sin Nature (OSN) and the Indwelling Holy Spirit (HIS) (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.5:16-17).

When you fulfill the desires (lusts) of the OSN, it results in personal sin (James 1:14-15). We call this carnality (1 Cor.3:3) [carnality / sarkikos). Walking in the Holy Spirit is called spirituality (1 Cor.3:1) (Spirituality / pneumatikos).

The OSN and IHS are mutually exclusives in the CAB (Gal.5:24-25; 6:7-8; Rom.8:5-11).

When you commit personal sin, you are under the control of the OSN. Therefore, you must confess your present sin in order to regain the filling ministry of the IHS (Eph.5:18; 1 John 1:9).

2. Carnality grieves and quenches the IHS and unless personal sin is confessed that CAB will receive divine discipline (Eph.4:30; 1 Thess.5:19; Heb.12:1-2, 5-11).

- Do not (me) grieve (lupeo) (p.a.impv.2pl) (Eph.4:25-31).
- Do not (me) quench (sbennumi) (p.a.impv.2pl) (1 Thess.5:19-22; 1 John 4:4).

3. Divine discipline is always God as Father expressing His unconditional love towards His children.

“For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines.” (Heb.12:6)

That is because every CAB is a BELOVED child in Christ. He is an object of God’s maximum love in time and eternity (1 John 4:9-10). This is 1 of the 50 things in the package of grace salvation.

4. All Divine discipline is confined to the believer in time and never in eternity (1 Cor.11:31).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom.8:1) This is another of the 50 things (NO condemnation in Christ).

All sin was imputed to Jesus Christ upon the cross and the judicial justice of God was satisfied FOREVER. (1 John 2:2; 4:10; Heb.10:12) “For Christ also died for sins **once for all**, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.” (1 Pet.3:18)

5. There are three progressive stages of divine discipline in the life of CAB: signal, scourging, and sin unto death.

Signal discipline is intended to get the carnal believer’s attention for confession of sin.

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord nor faint when you are reproved by Him.” (Heb.12:5)

“For those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.” (Rev.3:19-20) [Church of Laodicea].

Scourging discipline is intended to get the reversionistic believer’s attention.

“For those whom the lord loves He disciplines and He scourges every son whom He receives.” (Heb.12:6).

Sin unto death discipline is the removal of the reversionistic believer from phase II (believer in time). It is not the loss of salvation but the loss of time in phase II and dying grace.

“If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is a sin leading to death**; I do not say that he should make a request for this.” (1 John 5:16; 1 Cor.5:5; 1 Tim.1:20; Heb.3:15-17; Jude 23)

**“But if you are without discipline of which all have become partakers,
then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”**
(Heb.12:8)

“But He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.”
(Heb.12:10)