

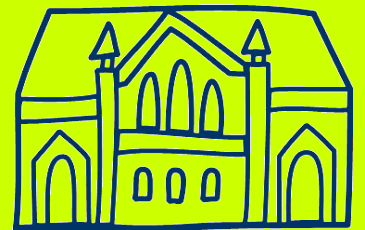
# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton

Today 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018 speaker Philip Wells,  
Full-time Elder.

This evening 6.30 - "Winning your brother ... church discipline  
1 Corinthians 5 etc ..." *Important for church members!*

[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)

*Sermons and talks - [calvary-brighton.sermon.net](http://calvary-brighton.sermon.net)*



# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton

*More of a Bible study*

*0. what is church discipline*

*1. Why bother with church discipline?*

*2. What problems occur in church life?*

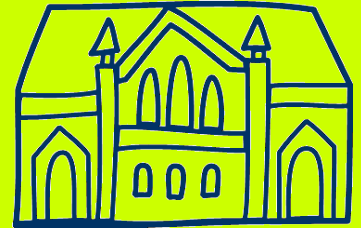
*3. The classic passages are*

- Matt 6*
- Matt 18*
- 1 Cor 5*

*4. Matt 18*

- In more detail*

*5. 1 Cor 5 in more detail*



*Discipline arises out of the responsibilities of church membership. Its purpose is to uphold the glory and the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ in His church, to maintain its purity here on earth, to sanctify each member and to reclaim and restore those who err.*

*It is one of the means God has provided for the perseverance of the saints. Any action must be carried out in the spirit of Christian love and humility, and with a prayerful concern for the full restoration of the offender. Matters of personal offence should be settled by members according to the procedure laid down in Matthew 18:15–18.*

*Any member who wilfully neglects the responsibilities of church membership, who falls into doctrinal error or into open sin will be subject to this ministry of love as exercised by the elder(s) and church.*

*Action may take different forms according to the seriousness of the case. In some cases great discretion is required, and therefore, the elder(s) are not obliged to give the church all the details but must be trusted with the government of the church.*

*In difficult cases the advice of other elderships should be sought.*

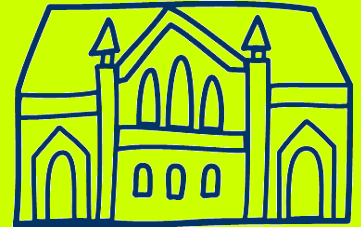
# Church Discipline

*More of a Bible study*

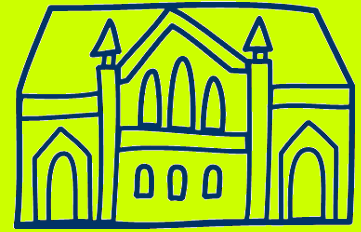
*0. What do you mean by church discipline?*

*"Church discipline is that exercise of the heavenly authority of the Lord within the body of Christ on earth, at local church level, by which professing Christians are advised, rebuked, penalised, or excluded if they will not repent of definite sin or sins. This is exercised informally by individuals, through the Elders, and under the authority of the Lord Jesus as expressed through the gathered church"*

*All Christians are meant to submit to this discipline, and be prepared to exercise discipline - it is spiritually demanding, but ultimately for the good of all concerned.*



# Church Discipline part 3



## *4. Matt 18 in more detail*

- *The flow of the passage is*

*1-9 being a disciple → being childlike. N.B. children are precious and vulnerable*

*12-14 the importance of restoring the stray*

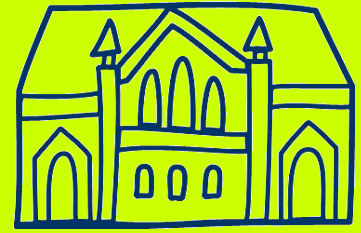
*15-17 winning your brother who sins [against you]*

- *a. go alone (NOT tell other people)*
- *b. go with 2 or 3 other people (ONLY 2 or 3 other people)*
- *c. tell it to the church*
- *==> ultimate crime "will not hear the church" → be like a non-Christian*
- *Heavenly authority at work on earth*

*21-35 forgiveness to the sinner generates an instinct to forgive*

*==> "I cancelled all that debt of yours" v.32*

# Church Discipline



## *4. 1 Corinthians 5 in more detail - context*

*The flow of the letter is*

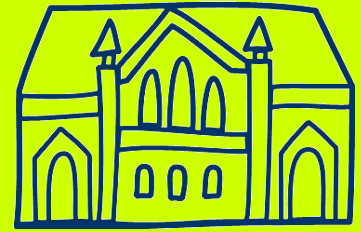
- *1:4 he thanks God for them, they are enriched, not lacking in any charismati [=gift]*
- *1:8 keep to the end*
- *1:10 division is contrary to Christ*
- *1:18 the power and wisdom of ... the cross*
- *3:1 they are not pneumatikos (spiritual) but infants of, the flesh, exalting men*
- *4:8 they are already rich! 4:18 they have become arrogant*
- *4:17 forgetting Apostolic [teaching] and ways*

*i.e. a genuine living church where the Holy Spirit is at work*

*But also an immature, flesh-driven church*

- *i.e. their division, arrogance,*

# Church Discipline



## *4. 1 Corinthians 5 in more detail - nothing misleading about the text*

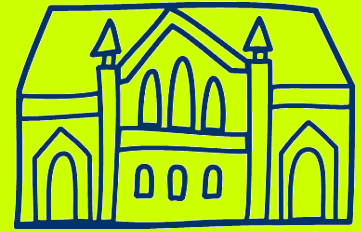
### *The flow of the chapter (not quite like Matthew 18)*

- *A known, outward, gross sin 5:1 (n.b. 15:33 appears to be addressed differently here)*
- *Their reaction = pride, should be grief, and exclusion v.2*

### *Remedy*

- *The absence/presence of the apostle(s)*
- *Apostolic judgment (open and shut case)*
- *Assemble in the name of Lord Jesus, presiding of the apostle, power of Lord Jesus*
- *Hand over to Satan for ruin of flesh*
- *That his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus*
- *=> apostolic jurisdiction -via Scripture*
- *=> solemn church gathering (like Matt 18) name/power/ Lord Jesus*
- *=> hand over to Satan = put back into the world where Satan has his rule*
- *=> aim to win him over, long term*

# Church Discipline



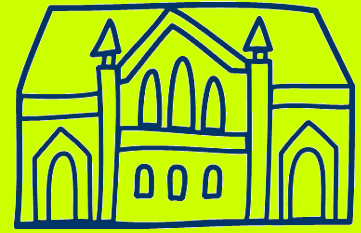
## 4. 1 Corinthians 5 in more detail

### Reasoning

- *v.6 the sin affects the whole church*
- *Like Passover Lamb + unleavened bread*
- *Christ's sacrifice // appropriate celebration = remove old yeast badness and wickedness, eat bread of moral purity and trueness*
- *N.B. not to with-each-mix with sexually-immoral*
  - *NOT this world : covetous, muggers, idolaters ==> leave the world*
- *BUT, not to with-each-mix named as brother*
  - *If he is sexually-immoral, covetous, idolater, drunkard, mugger*
  - *NOT to eat with [I.e, to eat with in fellowship]*
  - *NOT judge = act in judgment upon those outside (God judges them)*
  - *BUT YES to judge = act in judgment upon those inside*
  - *"purge out the wicked-one from you" (quoting Deut 17:7,19:19,21:21, 22:21, 22:24, 24:7) death penalty → exclusion*



# Church Discipline



## *4. 1 Corinthians 5 in more detail*

### *Conclusion*

- *there are sins which are outward and gross, incompatible with Christian faith if persisted in and not repented of (?)*
  - *=> sin is sin, but there are degrees of sin*
- *Christian church, as a body, has a duty to exclude such a person*
  - *=> the challenge of a church being willing to act together*
- *they meet in the name and power of the Lord Jesus, under apostolic authority*
- *treating the guilty person as not a Christian*
- *long term aim to save them (e.g. by strong reminder of what they are getting, and missing)*
- *this is the duty of the responsible church (church membership makes this clearer)*
- *this power operates within the realm of the [local] church, what we expect of SOCIETY is a different thing*
- *expulsion/ exclusion is important for the health of the church*