

# **NORTH HILLS CHURCH**

## **Church Discipline/Restoration Policy**

### **I. Purpose**

North Hills Church discipline is applicable only to its members, and is not meant to give license to church leadership in gray area trivia, but rather the end result should be to restore an erring member, to purify the church, to deter sin and to demonstrate the reality of righteous living to the unsaved world (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

### **II. Attitude**

The heart attitude of the church in discerning and dealing with erring members through the means of church discipline must therefore demonstrate the following:

- A. Avoid both vengeance and arrogance – Gal. 6:1.
- B. View the individual as an erring brother and not a bitter enemy – 2 Thess. 3:15.
- C. Approach them with sorrow and not sarcasm – 1 Cor. 5:2; 2 Cor. 2:4.
- D. Be ready to forgive them when repentance occurs – 2 Cor. 2:7; 7:10-11.

### **III. Examples**

The following are some scriptural examples of sin that result in church discipline:

- A. Divisiveness – 2 Thess. 3:11; Titus 3:10-11; Rom. 16:17-20.
- B. Unruly, disorderly and undisciplined living – 2 Thess. 3:6,11,14; 1 Thess. 5:14.
- C. Conflict between members – 1 Cor. 6:5; Phil. 4:2-3; Matt. 18:15-18.
- D. Sins of the flesh – 1 Cor. 5:11.
- E. Denial of the great doctrines of our faith – 1 Tim. 6:3,5; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; Titus 3:10; 2 John 1:10-11; Rev. 2:14.

The above are merely examples. The key issue is not only what the member has done, but his unwillingness to repent and bring his will and life into subjection to the Word of God. A member who will not turn from his sin after the biblical steps are followed (outlined under “Procedure”) must be excommunicated.

### **IV. Procedure**

Church discipline is to be handled prayerfully, carefully, and justly, with individual attempts of corrective or preventative action as follows:

[Identificaton](#)

A. First step: Identify those who are in need of biblical correction (Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:14).

Confrontation

B. Second step: **By the offended** - Arrange a private meeting with the offender (Matt. 18:15). Confront him about his sin and if he repents, forgive him (Luke 17:3).

C. Third step: **By other witnesses** - If there is no repentance, set up a second meeting with several others present (Matt. 18:16). During these private and semiprivate meetings, the individual should be repeatedly admonished (Titus 3:10), rebuked (2 Tim. 4:2), and warned (1 Thess. 5:14) about his sin and unwillingness to repent.

D. Fourth step: **Tell it to the church** - If there is no repentance, the elders will seek to restore the offender (Presuming elders have not been involved to this point). If there is still no repentance the church (at large, shep group, elders, group of believers at NHC) is notified of the sin. The church then seeks to encourage the person toward repentance (Matt. 18:17; Tim. 5:20). **Separation** - If the erring member refuses to heed the warning and correction of the Board of Elders and the Church, he shall be dismissed from North Hills Church, removed from the membership rolls, denied Christian fellowship and delivered over to Satan with the hope and prayer of repentance and reconciliation. There shall be no appeal to any court from that decision.

1. He shall be denied Christian fellowship.

a. "Avoid them" - Rom. 16:17.

b. "Withdraw yourselves" - 2 Thess. 3:6.

c. "From such withdraw thyself" - 1 Tim. 6:3,5.

d. "Reject" - Titus 3:10.

e. "Have no company with him" - 2 Thess. 3:14.

f. "Not even to eat with such a person" - 1 Cor. 5:11.

2. He is delivered over to Satan (1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20), which means he is taken out from under the protective care of God's Holy Spirit ministering in and through God's people.