



The best discipline for a child of God is SELF-DISCIPLINE. One of the ways we practice self-discipline is self-denial. Paul discusses the self-discipline of self-denial in I Corinthians, chapters 7-9. If there ever was a group of believers who needed self-discipline, these believers at Corinth needed it.

In I Corinthians 7, Paul says he had the right to enter into Marriage. (I believe Paul to have been a widower — the rising star of Judaism could not have been unmarried.) But for the following reasons (1. Persecution of Men — v. 26; 2. Problem of Marriage — v. 28; 3. Promise of the Messiah — v. 29; 4. Priority of the Ministry — v. 35), Paul voluntarily gave up Marriage.

In I Corinthians 8, Paul understands that idols are nothing, and he could eat the Meat offered to false gods. But he would eat no such Meat if it offended his weaker brother. In I Corinthians 9, Paul had every right to receive Money for his ministry. But he gladly “made tents” to support himself.

Marriage, Meat, Money — great examples of self-discipline on Paul’s part. We need self-discipline.

However, in many cases we need CHURCH DISCIPLINE (Matthew 18:15-20) in the absence of self-discipline.

Dare to Discipline

A diamond has four C’s — carat, color, clarity, and cut. Church discipline has four C’s. A church must discipline its members 1. Consistently (get ducks in a row), 2. Compassionately (tears in your eyes, not blood), 3. Courageously (not for the faint of heart), and 4. Confidentially (as long as possible). The four cornerstones of church discipline are 1. Disgrace — public immorality, 2. Doctrine — false, 3. Disruption — of fellowship, and 4. Desertion. Keep in mind that discipline and discipleship have a similar root and are needed for spiritual fruit.

Be warned that without self-discipline or church discipline, there will be GOD’S DISCIPLINE. Read I Corinthians 11:30-32 KJV: “For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.” In a carnal believer’s life, chastisement can end in the sin unto death (I John 5:16).

Self-discipline, church discipline, God’s discipline —

Paul preferred self-discipline. Paul said in I Corinthians 9:27 KJV: “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

We need to quit expecting lost people to act like saved people, but we should expect saved people to act like saved people. Dare to Discipline. I double dog dare you! Our bite should match our bark. Where is our credibility?

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

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College News



Cordova, Tennessee native William Bishop will lead the worship leadership program at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** beginning in August. He will be the program’s first director. He earned his bachelor’s in music history Summa Cum Laude at the University of Memphis in August 2006. His master’s in music ministry came from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 2008. Bishop received his doctorate at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015.



Doug Broome will serve as keynote speaker at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE’S** summer commencement Aug. 5, 10 a.m. Broome is pastor of First Church, Natchez and is serving his second year as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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