



# Big Creek Church – Church Discipline Policy Summary

## Gospel Foundation

Church discipline is rooted in the gospel: we are redeemed but still struggle with sin. Discipline helps believers grow in holiness within the church community, guided by love and truth (Hebrews 12:5–11).

## Why Discipline?

Discipline is an act of love:

- **Love for God:** Upholding His holiness (Habakkuk 1:13).
- **Love for Members:** Seeking restoration (James 5:19–20).
- **Love for the Church:** Preserving purity (1 Corinthians 5).
- **Love for Non-Believers:** Maintaining witness (Romans 6:1–4).
- **Love for Scripture:** Obeying biblical instruction (2 Timothy 3:16).

## Membership Commitments

- **Elders:** Commit to loving, biblical discipline giving correction in humility for the health of the church.
- **Members:** Submit to discipline and participate in restoring others.
- **Regular Attenders:** May also be subject to discipline for the health of the body.

## When Is Discipline Appropriate?

Only for clear, scriptural sin—not personal preferences. Causes include:

- Persistent conflict (Matthew 18:15–17)
- Divisiveness (Titus 3:10)
- Immorality (1 Corinthians 5)
- False teaching (1 Timothy 1:20)

## **Discipline Process (Matthew 18:15–17)**

1. **Private Confrontation:** One-on-one, in love and humility.
2. **Small Group Involvement:** Bring 1–2 others who are objective and biblically discerning if no repentance.
3. **Elder Involvement:** Church leaders investigate and guide.
4. **Church-Wide Action:** If still unrepentant, the church is informed. The person may be removed from membership and fellowship.

## **Restoration Process**

If repentance occurs:

- **Forgive:** Accept and forget the offense (2 Corinthians 2:7).
- **Comfort:** Encourage and support (2 Corinthians 2:7b).
- **Love:** Reintegrate into community and ministry (2 Corinthians 2:8).

Genuine repentance is shown by confession, changed behavior, restitution, and spiritual fruit (Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20).

## **Key Scriptures**

- Matthew 18:15–17
- 1 Corinthians 5:9–13
- Galatians 6:1–2
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14–15
- James 5:19–20

\*\*\* This document is only meant to be a brief summary. For more detail around the context of Church Discipline and the steps to administer discipline please see the full version on our website.