

DISTINCTIVE: REPROOF AND RESTORATION

I. Why is it important to understand Biblical reproof and restoration?

- A. Reproof and restoration of fellow church members is a responsibility that belongs to every church member.
- B. By joining the church, you are committing yourself to receiving this kind of accountability if necessary.

Matthew 18:15–20

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16** But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **19** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

II. What is Biblical reproof and restoration?

- A. Determine if the unrepentant act is sinful in God’s sight according to Scripture.
- B. Seek to win your brother by reproofing him in private.

Proverbs 12:15

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

- C. Try to win your brother to holiness with one or two others.
 - 1. Additional witnesses confirm that an act has actually been committed.
 - 2. Additional witnesses confirm that the act is indeed sinful.
 - 3. Additional witnesses confirm that the person is not repentant.
- D. Tell it to the church so that all may try to win him to holiness.
- E. Put him out of the church and treat him as an unbeliever.

1 Corinthians 5:5–8

5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. **6** Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? **7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8** Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:11–13

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. **12** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? **13** God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

Titus 3:10–11

10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, **11** knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

III. Biblical reproof and restoration flows from Crossway’s core values.

A. Biblical reproof and restoration flows from a high view of God.

1. We share God’s hatred for sin and refuse to tolerate unrepentant sin in His church.
2. When we engage in reproof and restoration we share in the heart of the Good Shepherd for lost sheep.

Matthew 18:12–14

12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? **13** And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. **14** So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

- B. Biblical reproof and restoration flows from a high view of God’s Word.
- C. Biblical reproof and restoration flows from a Biblical view of man.
- D. Biblical reproof and restoration flows from the primacy of the gospel mission.
- E. Biblical reproof and restoration flows from a Biblical view of church leadership.
- F. Understanding the centrality of the local church leads us to seek to restore others to usefulness in the body.

Do you have questions/comments about *Biblical reproof and restoration*?

We want to answer your questions! Make notes of anything you would like to discuss further with a pastor at Crossway. You can also email any questions to: craig@keenecrossway.org