

The Necessity of Discipline

Without discipline, our world would be in chaos. Discipline is defined as, “the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience.”

Discipline can take many forms, here are just a few:

- **Self-Discipline**

This type of discipline is self-imposed and provokes us into action without a threat of reprisal from outside sources. Called self-control in Galatians 5:23, it is the discipline that prevents us from yielding to temptation which leads to sin (*James 1:13-15*).

- **Parental Discipline**

This is the discipline applied by parents to children when they are disobedient. Parental discipline, to include corporal punishment, is encouraged in the wisdom writings. “*My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother.*” (*Proverbs 1:8*)

- **Civil Discipline**

Christians are instructed to obey the laws of the government under which they live (*Romans 13:1-7*). Civil discipline is applied to those who break the law, even Christians who defy man’s law when they conflict with God’s law.

- **Spiritual Discipline**

This discipline can be described as one in which we experience spiritual growth. This includes regular worship, prayer, bible study, and benevolence. (*John 4:24; 1 Thes. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; Gal. 6:10*)

*Jay Launius – 2023
Maud church of Christ
Maud, Texas*