

Health Screening for **The Church**



1. Word



1. Word
2. Gospel



1. Word
2. Gospel
3. Evangelism



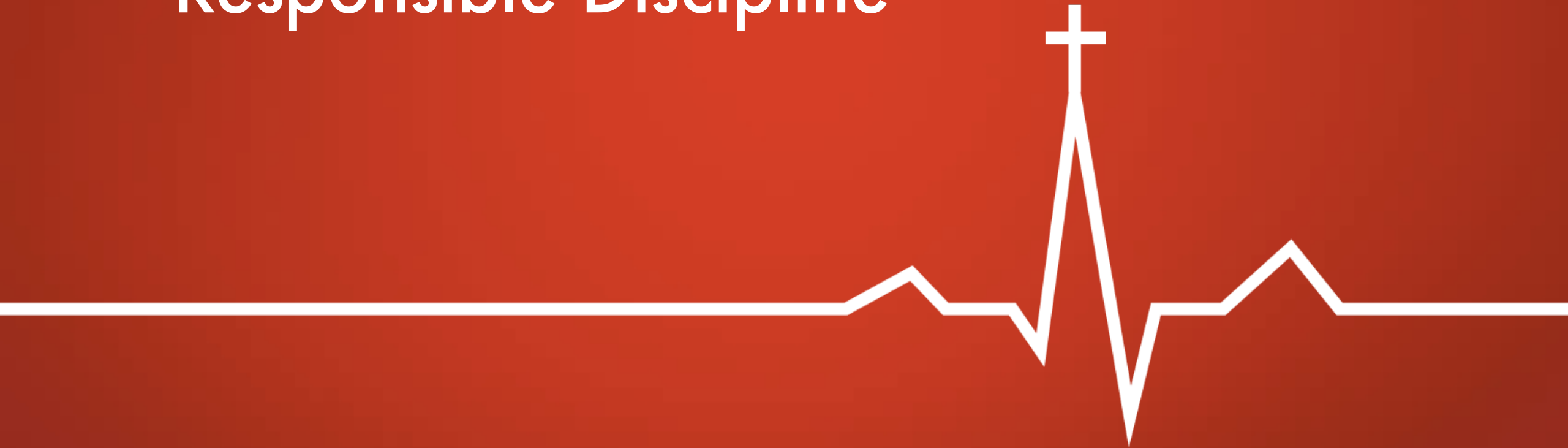
1. Word
2. Gospel
3. Evangelism
4. Membership



1. Word
2. Gospel
3. Evangelism
4. Membership
5. Discipline



A Healthy Church Practices Responsible Discipline



What is Church Discipline?



Church discipline is the process of correcting sinful behavior among members of a local church body for the purpose of protecting the church, restoring the sinner to a right walk with God, and renewing fellowship among the church members.

JE Adams



It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? **Let him who has done this be removed from among you.**

(1 Cor 5:2 ESV)



When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 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.

(1 Cor 5:4,5 ESV)



Your boasting is not good. Do you not know
that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a
new lump, ...

(1 Cor 5:6,7 ESV)



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.

(1Cor 5:11 ESV)



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.

...Purge the evil person from among you.

(1Cor 5:11,13 ESV)



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.**

(Mat 18:17 ESV)



Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness** and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

(2The 3:6 ESV)



If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and **have nothing to do with him**, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

(2The 3:14,15 ESV)



By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have **handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

(1Ti 1:20 ESV)



For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. **Avoid such people.**

(2Ti 3:2-5 ESV)



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Who is Church Discipline for?



For what have I to do with judging outsiders?
Is it not those **inside the church** whom you are
to judge?

(1Co 5:12 ESV)



When is Church Discipline called for?



It is actually reported that there is sexual **immorality** among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for **a man** has his father's wife.

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(2Ti 3:2-5 ESV)



When is Church Discipline called for?



When is Church Discipline called for?

Serious



When is Church Discipline called for?

Serious
Outward



When is Church Discipline called for?

Serious
Outward
Unrepentant
Sins



When is Church Discipline to end?



For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

(2Co 2:6-8 ESV)



How is Church Discipline to be done?



Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should **restore him in a spirit of gentleness.** Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

(Gal 6:1 ESV)



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.

(Mat 18:15-17 ESV)



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. 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.

(Mat 18:15-17 ESV)



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(Mat 18:15-17 ESV)



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(Mat 18:15-17 ESV)



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take one or two others along



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take one or two others along



tell it to the church.



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Why is Church Discipline important?



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.**

(1Co 5:5 ESV)



Your boasting is not good. **Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?**
Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump...

(1 Cor 5:6,7 ESV)



As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that **the rest may stand in fear.**

(1Ti 5:20 ESV)



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Church discipline is the process of correcting sinful behavior among members of a local church body for **the purpose of protecting the church, restoring the sinner to a right walk with God, and renewing fellowship among the church members.**

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When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And **great fear came upon all who heard of it.**

(Acts 5:5 ESV)



When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And **great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.**

(Acts 5:10,11 ESV)



And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

(Acts 5:14 ESV)



A Healthy Church Practices Responsible Discipline





W A T E R M A R K

C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

October 9, 2015

Dear Jason,

This is a difficult letter to write, as I am sure that it will be a difficult one to hear and receive. We genuinely care for you, love you, and want nothing more for you than to live an abundant life that is found in Jesus Christ alone.

However, in our attempt to shepherd you, we have recognized a destructive pattern that prohibits us in caring for you and playing the role you desire for us to have in your life (1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28). Specifically, your desire to actively participate in a same-sex relationship with another man, and your unwillingness to heed biblical counsel from your church to turn from that relationship, has made it exceedingly difficult to shepherd you during this time.

As we noted during our time together last Tuesday (9/29/15), and through the years, we have gently & repeatedly brought these patterns to your attention and, at times, you have heeded this counsel and repented. But now, this is no longer the case. So, in obedience to Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Corinthians 5:11, we are left with no other option but to remove you from our body and treat you as we would anyone who is living out of fellowship with God...and we lovingly, but firmly, call you back to repentance. This means that you are no longer a member of our body at Watermark. We are praying that repentance comes quickly and that you do not continue choosing a path of destruction and one that leads you away from the authority and care of the church.

We recognize that these patterns are only symptoms of a heart that is either unwilling or unable to fully trust God in every area of your life, including your sexuality. We plead with you to run to the Lord and allow the Spirit of God to begin to transform your heart in a mighty way (Titus 3:3-7).

In order to help you through this time, we would like to make some tangible recommendations that we hope will serve as a catalyst for true repentance and heart-change in your life. They are:

1. Faithful attendance of Re:Generation targeting the above issue, while following counsel to not be in a dating relationship during that time.
2. Meet with a Watermark staff member who shares in the same struggle (same sex attraction) who has found freedom, healing, and victory through our Savior Jesus Christ (just let Brandon know when you're ready to meet with him).

We affirm your many gifts, your heart of kindness, and we value the way God has uniquely formed you (Psalm 139:13-14). We all pray for your repentance and full restoration so that your gifts and passions can be fully unleashed for the Kingdom of God. We love you, Jason, and stand at the gate for you and eagerly await God's restoration in your life (Luke 15:20).

In Christ,



The Elders of Watermark Community Church

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The Elders of Watermark
Community Church

Dear Watermark Community Church,

Today I celebrate a very interesting anniversary with you. It was exactly one year ago when you told me that I was no longer worthy to serve, be in a community group, and be a member of your church....

I spent years in your church battling against my homosexuality. I believed with all my heart that God would change me; I prayed for change almost daily. But when I wasn't able to change, you turned your back on me...

Here we are a year later and you are still doing to others what you did to me. You are tarnishing the name of God to Christians and non-Christians alike; you should be ashamed of yourselves! Do not forget, Jesus was angry with people just like you who said certain groups of people were not worthy to be followers of Him.

Thank you for removing yourself from my life!
I am who God made me to be. I cannot
change my sexual orientation and nor would I
want to. I now have internal peace and
happiness unlike ever before.

Jason Thomas



W A T E R M A R K
C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

Watermark makes a distinction between attending our church and being a formal member of our church. We don't remove someone's formal status as a member for struggling with sin -- whether that sin is pride, materialism or sexual sin.



W A T E R M A R K
C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

An individual's formal relationship with us as a member is only changed when someone no longer desires to resist sin and refuses our help, care and encouragement.



W A T E R M A R K
C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

Even if someone's formal membership status is removed, they are always welcome to attend Watermark and be reminded of the grace and truth of our savior Jesus Christ.



We would never send that letter to anybody who is saying, ‘Man, help me! I am stuck in my sin,’” Wagner said. “In this case, it was hours of meetings, and many tears. It was in a circle together with his friends and their ministry leaders that he finally said, ‘Guys, I don’t see what I’m doing as wrong anymore.’”

Todd Wagner



Most people would rather deal with sin in themselves than deal with sin in a brother or sister's life, and we constantly remind the body of Christ among us that speaking the truth in love is part of what it means to love Christ himself

Todd Wagner



While Watermark mourns over the loss of Thomas, and prays for his return, the publicity surrounding his departure has actually been reassuring to the congregation.

Todd Wagner



The seriousness with which we commit to caring for one another and protecting the cause of Christ has encouraged them

Todd Wagner



“no less than 50 to 80” individuals in the congregation and around the country thanking the church for its actions.

Todd Wagner



Shortly after Thomas was released from the church, another member who had received a letter came back to Watermark, repentant and acknowledging the church's love for him. "We had a great time celebrating that guy's reconciliation to the body of Christ and becoming a member in good standing again."

Todd Wagner



Watermark longs for that same reconciliation with Thomas one day.

Todd Wagner

1. Word
2. Gospel
3. Evangelism
4. Membership
5. Discipline

