

I. The Holiness of Our King (v 18).

- A. *The Son of God*
- B. *Who has eyes like a flame of fire* (Rev 19:12; Heb 4:12)
- C. *Whose feet are like burnished bronze* (Rev 1:14-15): purity & strength
- D. Uses from the Text
 - 1) Let us not forget who reigns over the Church (Col 1:18)
 - 2) Let us not forget the purpose of the Church.
 - 3) Let us not forget the awe and reverence which we should have before the Lord our God.

II. The Necessity of Church Discipline (vv 19-23).

- A. What is Church Discipline? Church Discipline is the formal act of the courts of Christ's Church to admonish, rebuke, suspend from the privileges of Church membership, depose from office, or excommunicate of a member of the Visible Church who is ensnared by sin, with the appropriate censure being applied according to the heinousness and/or habit of the particular sin.
- B. What is the purpose of Church Discipline? *WCF 30.3*, 'Church censures are necessary, (1) for the reclaiming and gaining of offending brethren, (2) for deterring of others from the like offences, (3) for purging out of that leaven which might infect the whole lump, (4) for vindicating the honour of Christ, and the holy profession of the gospel, and (5) for preventing the wrath of God, which might justly fall upon the Church, if they should suffer His covenant and the seals thereof to be profaned by notorious and obstinate offenders.'
- C. Who has the authority and responsibility to carry out Church Discipline? (v 18; Mt 16:19)
- D. The Encouragement of God for our True Obedience (v 19)
 - 1) *I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance*
 - 2) *And that your latter works exceed the first* (Isa 42:3)
- E. The Need for Church Discipline (v 20)
 - 1) The sinners involved: Ministers and Members (2 Tim 3:1, 6-7)
 - 2) The sin involved
 - a) False worship and doctrine (1 Cor 10:20)
 - b) Immorality
 - c) To the discerning Christian, that which is claimed to be

innovation will rightly be known as the resurrection of old heresy and immorality (1 Kgs 16:34; Gen 3:1; Jude 1:7)

- 3) The nature of the sin involved: Its heinousness (1 Kgs 16:31, 18:4, 21) and habit
- F. The Warning against not carrying out Church Discipline (vv 21-23)
 - 1) There has been ample time for repentance
 - 2) The Lord's direct dealing with all those who commit such sin (vv 22-23)
 - a) Destruction of false teachers (2 Kgs 9:32-37; 2 Pt 2:1-3)
 - b) The Disruption of the whole Church (2 Kgs 9:22)
 - c) Destruction of those who follow false teaching
 - d) The shame of the unfaithful church before the other churches (Acts 5:11)
 - e) The final judgment of God
 - f) This is the mercy of Church Discipline.
- G. Uses from the Text
 - 1) Watch for ourselves (2 Sam 11).
 - 2) Watch for our brothers and sisters (Gal 6:1)
 - 3) Look to the Lord Christ Jesus (Lk 15:3-7)
 - 4) Be swift to repentance.
 - 5) Prayer for purity and perseverance of the Church.

III. The Lord's Command to the Faithful (vv 24-29).

- A. The Lord's Command to the Faithful
 - 1) To deal with this matter of discipline
 - 2) Continue in what is good
 - a) Persevere in the truth (2 Tim 3:12-14)
 - b) So we must know the truth (2 Tim 3:15-17)
 - c) We are to have the priority and desire for reformation, not separation.
- B. The Lord's Comfort to the Faithful
 - 1) *To him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father* (Psalm 2)
 - 2) *And I will give him the morning star* —
 - a) So that the Lord Himself is our portion, both in this life and in glory (Rev 22:16)
 - b) So that the Lord will furnish the Church with faithful ministers (Rev 1:20)
- C. The Lord's Conclusion