

The Church Order on Discipline (#2)
The proper objects of discipline

(BG 2023)

** Review of last week: What were the 7 ways in which all participate in discipline?

** Tonight: Who may be disciplined by the church? In love for sinners, for the church, and for God, we *must* conduct discipline. But discipline must not be misdirected. The following four categories indicate the proper objects of discipline. But each comes with difficulties:

1. Impenitent sinners

Not merely sinners, but impenitent sinners are the objects of discipline.

But there are important qualifications to this statement, and a hard question.

2. Church members

It should be obvious that the church does not discipline non-members.

The difficult question here: may she discipline members who ask to leave, resign?

3. Mature members

Only mature members may be disciplined, all of them must be, non-confessing members also.

The question: not *whether*, but 1) what is this discipline? 2) how is it performed? Upon non-confessing

4. Sane members

Only those who know right from wrong; no 'insane' member may be excommunicated.

Difficulties: a) special needs members? b) those psychologically damaged by drugs? abuse?