

Dig Deeper into Sermon #4 on the Church for individuals and groups...

Maturing the Church...

1) Let's grow to Christian **maturity** (Eph 4:1-16, Col 1:28)
 ...by unitedly, diversely, building each other up
➡ Keep speaking the truth in love!

2) Let's grow in Christlike **purity** (Matt 18:15-20, 1 Cor 5)
 ...by careful, loving, discipline
➡ Keep walking close to Jesus!

CHRIST CHURCH
HUNTINGDON



As we conclude our series on the church ahead of the Vision day and Annual Church Meeting on Sunday, can you remember the four topics we have covered? Feel free to talk through any questions that have arisen in the series (including on the first passage on maturity on Sunday- Ephesians 4:1-16). Here are some questions that focus on the area of church discipline, which is a topic that isn't often considered...

1. What are the initial feelings that spring to mind as you approach the idea of discipline going on in church? What are the dangers that you foresee? Have you ever seen discipline enacted in a church?
2. Using Matt 18:15-20 and 1 Cor 5:1-13 can you construct a flowchart of the **steps** involved. Make sure you also mark up the appropriate Christian **values** that should be borne in mind at each step, such as those already seen in Eph 4:1-3 (NB the sermon used the words "careful" and "loving"). You might like to consider the likely outcomes if these steps or values are forgotten.
3. Are there any additional factors to consider when considering discipline for a church leader? (see also 1 Tim 5:17-22, Heb 13:7,8, 17; 2 Tim 2:22-26).
4. How would you respond to someone who suggests that we should be using discipline more in today's church, or those who feel we should be using it less?

Close by spending some time praying for our church (members and leaders) to be godly and to stay close to Christ who is the source of/the key to godliness (1 Tim 3:16).

Resources mentioned in or relevant to talk 4 ...

- **UK Healthcare costs** up to 2023 from statistica mentioned in the sermon are [here](#).
- Richard Coekin's book on Ephesians "**Ephesians for you**" by Good book company [here](#).
- Longer article on **Church Discipline** by Jonathan Leeman at The Gospel Coalition [here](#).
- AMiE's **code of conduct** for clergy is [here](#).
- Tim Keller on **forgiving one another** helpful article [here](#).
- 6mins on Christ **marrying the church** including the Luther quote [here](#).