

“Congregational Censure” (2 Thessalonians 3:13–18)

**Big Idea: While doing good and seeking peace, the church must suspend normal relations with a persistently disobedient member.**

- I. Understanding the Text
  - a. The Context of Public Church Discipline
  - b. The Action of Conscious Withdrawal
  - c. The Object of Shame and Restoration
  - d. The Warning of Brotherly Love
- II. Understanding the Issues
  - a. Our Allegiance to the Savior
    - i. Conflicts of interest in public church discipline expose your loyalties.
    - ii. Your relational loyalties must not erode your loyalty to Christ.
    - iii. Your loyalty to Christ must also overcome self-preservation.
  - b. Our Attitude toward Shame
    - i. We must know the difference between petty spite and godly disapproval.
    - ii. The shame brought by godly disapproval can be a healthy thing.
  - c. Our Actions in the Church
    - i. Isolation of a church member from fellow members is serious.
    - ii. Such isolation must not be sought outside church discipline.
    - iii. Such isolation should not be experienced outside church discipline.