“Appeal ... In All Purity”

Intro: All _____ who believe in Christ are the children of God, adopted into _____ household. We are the ________________ of God!

A. In the text before us we have the instruction of the Apostle Paul as he directs Timothy, teaching how one is to ________________ ____ ____________ members of the family, to all ages and both genders. This morning we learn of the posture of discipline, the people of discipline, and the practice and purpose of discipline.

I. Since members of God’s ________________ sin it is necessary that there be godly ________________ within the church family.

A. The ________________ of discipline:

1. The church family is to ________________ to erring family members as family! Not as enemies of the cross. Not as personal adversaries. Not as underlings but ____ loving caring ________________, as either a father, brother, mother or sister - whatever is appropriate to the situation.

2. It is _____ the will of God for us to minister to a sinning church family member by violently rebuking them in ________________ ways. We should remember that it was the kindness of God that led us to repentance! Our posture must be one of humble familial care.

3. It is the will of God that we minister to the erring family member by way of ________________. By appealing to the sinning member we come ________________ them to help them. Though there might be a strong word of correction it is always expressed in phrases of petition, so as to minister healing, for the sake of their restoration to God and church family. Our posture in discipline must be one of humility expressed in verbal pleas that weak hands will be strengthened and the straight and narrow path of Christ’s righteousness followed.

B. The ________________ of discipline:

1. Where correction takes place there are two parties: the ________________ and the ________________. Those who are spiritual are to restore those who trespass (cf. Gal.6:1-2).

2. Older believing men who sin are to be ________________ appealed to as a Christian would their own ________________.

3. Younger believing men who sin are to be appealed to as a Christian would his own ________________ - in deep self-sacrificing ________________ love.

4. Older believing women who sin are to be humbly and ________________ appeal to their own ________________, coming to her side to strengthen her in the truth of Christ.
5. Younger believing women who sin are to be appealed to as a Christian would their own __________, whom they earnestly care for as those they seek to __________.

C. The _________________ and purpose of discipline:

1. The pastor and whoever will care for a younger sinning member of the church family as a sister must have pure motives. __________ is ______________ to true ministry. Our practices must be practices of purity.

2. In the practice of church discipline there is to be a proper appeal and a proper response. If the one who confronts is to __________ to us as a _______________ father, mother, brother or sister, then we are to __________ to their appeal as a _______________ father, mother, brother or sister!

3. ____________ we appeal to a spiritual family member who is in sin but refusing to repent they continue in sin?

   a. In following Christ’s pattern for church ______________ (cf. Matt 18:15-17) we appeal to the sinning soul as a respected spiritual father until he shows that in fact, he is no father of ours. We treat them as an honored spiritual mother __________ she shows that she is no mother to us. We embrace them as a loved brother or precious sister until __________ __________ themselves to be all but our brother or sister. Then we treat them as an outsider, who is in need of Christ - who needs to come into the household of God.

4. God’s purpose in the practice of discipline: to ______________ erring saints and also, as 1 Cor 11:19b teaches, “…in order that those who are ______________ may have become evident among you.”

   a. Church, though the sinning may be impure let us minister still in all __________, according to the instruction and practices of the Spirit-breathed Word, ________________ to them as our own family until they prove they are not.

Closing: The ______________ of God is a great and ______________ family. If you have not come into His family, then believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His family will be your family. Christ died to be the first-born of many brethren. __________ to Him __________ believing that Jesus is the Christ of God, and you will find yourself adopted by God, a child born of God, a member of His dear family.

And, for those of us who have come into the family of God by faith in Christ, it is ours to __________ the brethren even as Christ loved us, and as a necessary part of this love we must maintain the purity of the ______________ of Faith by humbly correcting erring members, appealing to them as a family member, appropriate to their age and gender. By this the members of God’s family are truly known, and dear family, behold how good and how ______________ it is when brethren dwell together in the ______________ of Christ!