

✿ Sunday School

Chapter 26: Of the Church

III. The Marks of a Church Member (Para. 6)

(6) The members of these churches are saints by reason of the divine call, and in a visible manner they demonstrate and declare, both by their confession of Christ and their manner of life, that they obey Christ's call. They willingly consent to hold fellowship together according to Christ's instructions, giving themselves to the Lord and to one another as God wills, and yielding full assent to the requirements of the gospel.

- A. A Saint by calling
- B. A visible saint
- C. An obedient one-another-saint
Willingly consent to hold fellowship – the church is voluntary

Give themselves to the Lord and to one another
2 Cor. 8:1-5

yielding full assent to the requirements of the gospel.
The life of obedience and faith is a community project.
This is why we covenant together – this is why we hold each other accountable.

IV. The Authority of the Local Church (Para. 7)

To each of these churches thus gathered according to the divine will made known in His Word, the Lord has given all the power and authority requisite for the carrying on of the form of worship and discipline which He has appointed for their observance. This extends to the provision of such commands and rules as are needful for the rightful and proper use of the power conferred on the churches.

*Each local church is autonomous and under the direct authority of Jesus Christ

- A. Matt. 18:15-20 (cf. John 20:23)

Matthew 18:16 "But if he does not listen <i>to you</i> , take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.	Matthew 18:18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.
Matthew 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Mat 18:17 NAU)	Matthew 18:19-20 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."



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Christ is present with the witnesses in the discipline process

B. 1 Cor. 5:3-5

1. Paul's Apostolic and Prophetic Action (3)

I have already judged as though present

There is a tremendous sense of authority here, but Paul is not acting alone.

2. Paul's Instruction for the Church (4)

When you assemble/gather together

3. And my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus

This is not Paul's action alone, it also needs to be the assembled church's action acting on Paul's action, which are in the name/power of our Lord Jesus.

4. The Act of Discipline (5)

Hand this one over to Satan

5. For the destruction of the flesh

In order that the s/Spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord

Conclusion: The Church's authority, which rests in the apostolic Word, is real authority.

