

**Sermon Series 101: “Out of Order... Out of Control”^{© 2009},
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All praises and honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for allowing me to be here. I want to thank Pastor Frank Thomas, **the undershepherd** of The Blvd flock;To ... **Pastor Law** for this opportunity to share a few words on this occasion. And, of course, **I honor my fellow laborers in the Faith... and my new Blvd Family.**

Would you Pray with me?

O’ God. We acknowledge you now as Our Father, Our Mother, Our Creator, Our Savior, Our Lord. ... as the Only Wise God, who knows the thoughts and intentions of all men....Be with us now, O Lord, on the occasion of this Ministry Class - a Day in which we study to proclaim your Word to your people... Lord, without you ... “I can do nothing. So, I ask you to now Anoint these lips of clay... and to give me the power to Proclaim your Word. Send now your spirit - O Lord, I pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Would you turn with me now to

Proverbs 25:28 for the Word of God?

The writer pens these words: **“Like a city whose walls are broken down is the person who lacks self control.”** I want to talk for a few moments from the topic: **“Out of Order – Out of Control.**

“Discipline” is one of those words that nobody likes to hear ... especially if it applies to them. When you say that someone is being disciplined, it immediately conjures up images of being limited; or controlled....

that something is being kept from you... Or, that **someone** is losing **something.**

Some might also think of **discipline** as punishment or pain; especially if we link discipline to corporal punishment ...

Every child and every parent is automatically on the same page ... when you talk about “discipline” by corporal punishment...

We have discipline in our households.... At my house, I might say that if you get bad grades... then, you will be grounded for a month.

At your house, this might seem a bit harsh... maybe you would simply” issue a warning”... But, discipline is something that everyone has experienced at one time or another.

Discipline is enforced on our jobs ...if the job says you have to arrive no later than 8 O’Clock... and you fail to get there on time...

Then your employer might exercise some form of discipline in order to bring about a corrective behavior.

So, DISCIPLINE IN LIFE brings about order;... and we know that we serve a God who requires ALL THINGS to “be done decently and in order.”

If we are to have orderly communities and an orderly world... then, we **must have the discipline** to keep the laws of our society.

Our text today is quite simple: Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived... said that “a **person** without “discipline” or self control is like a city whose walls have been broken down....

I want you to picture with me what this author meant by his image of a city without walls.... Clearly, he means a place that is **vulnerable to all kinds of infringements** ...because it has no walls...

This City is not able to control what comes into it... nor **what goes out!.. because it has no boundaries, no limitations, no walls...**

Officials in the City of Memphis know what its boundaries are.....

Without boundaries... the City would not have control of its taxes, its laws, or its resources.

The boundaries of the City allow the officials here to have “some control” or restraint on what goes on in Memphis....

In the same way, the writer of Proverbs says that a Person **who has no self-control...** is like a city that has **no restraints...**

He or she has “no limits”

- no controls that say “**Stop**” ...
- nothing that controls the reigns...
- A person who has no “bounds, no limits, no discipline, no self-control...
- **Can say what they want to say...**

And, they **can do what they want to do...**

When you have no bounds and no limits, **you can curse people out...** and not even worry about it.

You say what you want to say... and

You do what you want to do...

Even, **if you are out of Order...**

And Out of Control...

But, we all know that there is a God who sits high... and he looks low...**and it is God who has the last Word.**

So, even when we fail to exercise restraint... God will remind us that God is the one who has Ultimate control....

The Bible says in Hebrews 12:5-11

"My child, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart **when he rebukes you,** because the Lord "disciplines" those whom he loves... and God punishes everyone that is **accepted** as God's child."

The writer says endure "hardship" as discipline because God is treating you as God's child. For what child is not disciplined by a parent? **If you are not disciplined (and "everyone" undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children** and not A true child of God. **He finally reminds us....**

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time that it is meted out, FOR it is painful. But, **in due time,** it "produces a harvest" of righteousness and peace for those who have been "**trained by it.**" (NIV)

And so, I will close with this popular children's song that **teaches the valuable lesson** of discipline.

I think you might know it:

- **Be careful little eyes what you see...**

Be careful little eyes what you see

There's a Father up above who's looking down in love; **so be careful little eyes what you see!**

- Be careful **little ears what you hear** -- Be careful **little ears what you hear**

There's a Father up above whose looking down in love... so be care little ears...

And, it goes on ...

- **Be careful little mouth what you say...**
- Be careful **little minds what you think**
- Be careful **little hands what you do**
- And, Be careful **little feet where you go**

That's our lesson on discipline this morning.

Discipline is an easy thing when we are talking about other folk...but, its another thing entirely **when we are required to discipline ourselves."**

I've started hundreds of diets in my lifetime. My challenge is to **gain the "discipline"** to follow just one of them...

And, likewise - YOU too have areas of your life in which you may have "little or NO discipline." It might be **smoking, drinking,** looking at the wrong kind of movies, **girl watching or boy watching;** overeating, **gossiping, cheating,** lying, or **simply failure to do** what God has called you to do ... **whatever you area...**

Just remember that Jesus is calling on us today to "**lead lives that are disciplined today...**"

- Jesus has set the example for a disciplined life...
- **In Prayer,** Jesus was disciplined. **He prayed in everything that he did;** Jesus communed with God, and therefore, he knew the Will of God.

- In His Walk, **Jesus set the example for discipline**. He **called 12** unlikely souls **out of a vocation of** catching fish... **and he** told these “12” to... “Follow Me – **and I will make you** “Fishers Of men.”
- Jesus said, “If any one would Follow Me, **let Him first deny himself** (you need A **little Discipline**)... **Take up His Cross** (there’s a **little work involved**)... and **Follow me, Jesus said**.

Jesus set the example for a disciplined life when He allowed himself to be given over into the hands of evil men...

He set the example in a Garden called Gethsemane, when he said...

- “Father, **Not my Will**,
- but let thy Will be done.”

Jesus set the example for discipline in all that he did in life ...” **even when it led to a Hill Called Calvary**...

- **Jesus set the example for discipline to look down from the Cross** and upon his enemies and say: **Father, forgive them**... for they no not what they do!
- **Because Jesus set the example for discipline** ... the Bible says:
- “Death was swallowed up in victory!!!...

O’ death, where is your sting?...

O’ grave, where is your victory?

- Because he had “discipline”

Now we are “sons and daughters... heirs and joint heirs of the Promise”

Because Jesus had the discipline...

We can now come boldly to His throne of grace where we may find grace to help in time of trouble...

- **Because Jesus had the discipline** ... we now have a new home....
- For the Bible says, that when this earthly tabernacle be dissolves... we have another building... that’s now made by hands...
- Because Jesus had the discipline....

He was able to leave us with Hope... saying, “I go to prepare a place for you... and, if I go to prepare a place..., I WILL come again and receive you unto myself... that where I am – there you may be also....

And, my Bible says that right now – **Because Jesus had the discipline...** he is seated at the right hand of the Father... ever making intercession for us

Oh, thank God for the discipline of Jesus... because when I mess up.. I can look to Jesus who has “paid it all...”

And, it gives me hope that - I TOO ... can lead a disciplined life through the **power of Jesus Christ** – the author and the “finisher” of my faith...

I too can lead a victorious life...

I don't have to be like a city without walls...

I don't have to be **Out of Order**...

I don't have to be **Out of Control**....

1