

**THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SOCIETY OF  
FRIENDS, OF OHIO YEARLY  
MEETING: PRINTED BY DIRECTION  
OF THE MEETING HELD AT MOUNT  
PLEASANT, OHIO, IN THE YEAR 1819**

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**VARIOUS**

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PRINTED BY DIRECTION OF

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IN THE YEAR 1819.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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In the morning of the gospel day, the apostles and disciples found it necessary to meet together, for the consolation and strength one of another; when, pursuant to the nature and design of the gospel, which brought peace on earth and good will to men, a care arose for the edification of the church, and that all, being of one family, might be of one mind.

And, as it hath pleased the great Head of the Church to gather us a people to himself, and to inspire us with degrees of the same universal love and good will by which was ushered in the dispensation of the gospel, we are engaged not only to meet together for the worship of God, but also for the exercise of a christian care over each other, for the preservation of all in unity of faith and practice, answerable to the description which He, the ever blessed Shepherd, gave of his flock, "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John xiii. 35.

For this important end, and as an exterior hedge of preservation to us against the many temptations and dangers to which we are exposed, the following rules, which have been occasionally adopted by the Society,

now form our code of discipline. In the exercise whereof, it is to be observed that if any member be found in a conduct subversive of its order, or repugnant to the testimonies with which we believe we are intrusted for the promotion of truth and righteousness, it becomes our indispensable duty to treat with such in christian meekness and brotherly compassion, without unnecessary delay or improper exposure, according to the direction of our Lord to his church, "if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault, between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother; but if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and publican." Matt. xviii. 15, 16, 17.

This is the extent of the censure of the Society against irreclaimable offenders; and whilst we disown them from being members of our religious community, it is recommended to be done in such a disposition of mind as may convince them that we sincerely desire their recovery and restoration. From the right exercise hereof, we believe no degree of persecution or imposition can be justly inferred; for the imposition rests on the part of those who (as has sometimes happened) insist on being retained as members, whilst at open variance with our religious body, either in principle or practice.

For the more regular and effectual support of the order



of the Society, it will be observed that besides the usual meetings for the purpose of divine worship, others for the exercise of our Discipline are instituted, subordinate to each other; all of which are either immediately or remotely accountable to the Yearly Meeting. These meetings have distinct allotments of service, and experience has abundantly shown, that when this service is attended to in uprightness and dedication of heart, with a single eye to the honor of our holy Head, and the benefit and edification one of another, in the love wherewith He hath loved us, our assemblies are favored with His aid and direction.

Although this code of Discipline is printed for the use of our own Society, yet should it meet the public eye, it is not doubted but the serious and candid reader will observe throughout the whole, the earnest endeavors of the Yearly Meeting for the promotion of virtue and religion.

And, whilst we earnestly recommend this work to the notice and regard of Friends, we are not without a clear prospect that an acquaintance with the letter of our Discipline will be insufficient to produce the desired effect, unless, in the exercise thereof, we are careful to move and act under the immediate influence of the spirit of Christ, in the pure love of the gospel.

May we, therefore, in our meetings for the exercise of the Discipline, humbly seek to be clothed with the spirit of wisdom and charity; this will divest the mind of a dependence on our own strength and abilities, endue us

with patience and condescension towards each other, and being preserved in fellowship, agreeably to the declaration of our Lord, "One is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren," a qualification will be experienced in our several stations and movements to build up one another in that faith which works by love, to the purifying of the heart.

Nor can we conclude without desiring, in an especial manner, that our youth of the present and succeeding generations may be early and fully instructed in our religious principles, and in the nature and design of our Christian Discipline; and through Divine assistance be enabled to adorn our holy profession by a conversation and conduct consistent with godliness and honesty; thereby avoiding the reproach which many, through a defection in principle, or a degeneracy in practice, have brought both upon themselves and the religious body of which they profess to be members.

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APPEALS.

Whilst the Yearly Meeting, in granting the liberty of an appeal, considers it as a precious privilege, it is affectionately desired that all may be careful how they encourage persons of improper dispositions to trouble superior meetings therewith.

If any be dissatisfied with, or think themselves aggrieved by the judgment of a Monthly Meeting, they may, after a copy of the testimony of disownment is delivered to them, notify the first or second Monthly Meeting following, (but no other,) of their intention of appealing to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, which notification the Monthly Meeting should enter on its minutes, and appoint four or more Friends to attend the Quarterly Meeting, with copies of the proceedings relative to the case, signed by the Clerk, there to show the reasons whereon that judgment was