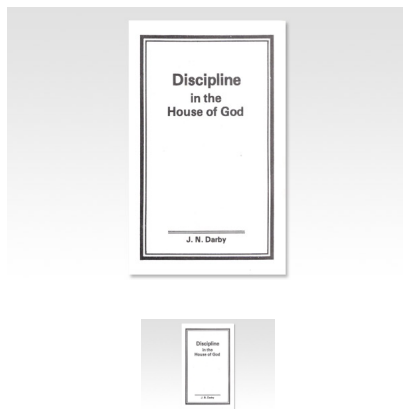




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Description

The CHARACTER and OBJECT of DISCIPLINE in the HOUSE of GOD

[It is well to note that this short paper, printed from notes of a discourse at a meeting (1841), refers to the spirit animating the individual in dealing with evil. The putting evil out is assumed; as the word of God expressly commands it. We are bound to keep God's house clean, to look diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God, lest there be amongst us such or such, to judge them that are within, and put out the wicked. But this is a proving of ourselves to be clean. God will have the place of His dwelling clean. The question of withdrawing from evildoers, a positive commandment of the Word, is not touched. The object of this paper is the spirit in which discipline is to be exercised.]

We ought to remember what we are in ourselves, when we talk about exercising discipline - it is an amazingly solemn thing. When I reflect that I am a poor sinner, saved by mere mercy, standing only in Jesus Christ for acceptance, in myself vile, it is, evidently, an awful thing to take discipline into my own hands. Who can judge save God? This is my first thought.

Here I stand, as nothing, in the midst of persons dear to the Lord, whom I must look upon and esteem better than myself, in the consciousness of my own sinfulness and nothingness before the Lord - and to talk of exercising discipline; it is a very solemn thought indeed to my own mind; it presses on me peculiarly. Only one thing gets me out of that feeling, and that is the prerogative of love. When love is really in exercise it cares for nothing but the accomplishment of its object. Look at

16 pages – Pamphlet – Author: J. N. Darby