*[Far side comic]*

***Formative discipline****: the activities that help us grow in our discipleship*

***Corrective discipline:*** *the process we use to confront and correct sin*

***15****“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.****16****But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.****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. Matt 18:15-17*

 *“Excommunication does not tend to drive men from the Lord’s flock but rather to bring them back when wandering and going astray” –John Calvin*

***Application***

***1. We must practice meaningful membership***

***What is church membership? (build these in)***

*A. An official endorsement of an individual Christian’s profession of faith.*

*B. An official recognition of who the leaders of the church are responsible before God to shepherd and whom the members are responsible to follow.*

*C. An official agreement between a believer and a congregation to be devoted to one another in life and love and discipleship!*

***2. We must build relationships where we invite correction and accountability from fellow believers in the church.***