

C. Degrees of Discipline

in several of the writings previously quoted, the term "censure" is used to refer to the act of discipline itself. in the *Book of Discipline* of the Presbyterian Church, LISA., four degrees of censure are specified for the church members, and six for church officers, as follows:

1. Degrees of censure for church members
  - a. Admonition  
"Admonition consists in tenderly and solemnly addressing the offender, placing his sin before him, warning him of his danger, and exhorting him to repentance and greater fidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ."
  - b. Rebuke  
"Rebuke is a form of censure more severe than admonition. It consists in setting forth the serious character of the offense, reproving the offender, and exhorting him to repentance and more perfect fidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ."
  - c. Suspension from Communion  
"Suspension is a form of censure by which one is deprived of the privileges of communicant membership in the church . . . It may be for a definite or an indefinite time."
  - d. Excommunication  
"Excommunication is the most severe form of censure and is resorted to only in cases of peculiar aggravation and persistent impenitence. It consists in solemnly excluding the offender from the communion of the visible church of Jesus Christ."
2. Degrees of censure for church officers
  - a. Admonition (same definition as above, under church members)
  - b. Rebuke (same definition as above, under church members)
  - c. Suspension from office  
"Suspension is a form of censure by which one is deprived of the privileges of office . . . . An office-bearer, while under suspension, shall be the object of deep solicitude and earnest dealing to the end that he may be restored. When the trial court which pronounces the censure is satisfied of the penitence of the offender, or when the time of suspension has expired and no new offense has arisen, the censure shall be removed, and the offender shall be restored. This restoration shall be accompanied with solemn admonition."
  - d. Suspension from communion (same definition as above, under church members)