



Matthew 18

We're going to review Matthew chapter 18, which has a passage that is considered to be a guide for church discipline.

However, we are going to “pull back” a bit so we can put this passage into context.



Matthew 18:1

- Matthew 18:1
 - The disciples asked “who is the greatest”
 - Focused on hierarchy
 - Maybe they were wondering who would be in charge
 - Maybe they were wondering who was Jesus’ favorite



Matthew 18:2-5

- Notice what the children are doing. They are focusing on Jesus
 - Seeking the mind of Christ
- Jesus explains that they are asking the wrong question



Matthew 18:1-5

- The real question is “Am I staying humble and looking to Jesus?”
- Galatians 3:28 – we are all equal in Jesus


Point: There is no reason to go straight to a “leader” and ask them to fix the behavior of somebody else. We are all at the same level!



Matthew 18:10-14

Matthew 18:10 – 12

- What does the flock provide?
 - Safety
- What happens if a sheep strays from the flock?
 - Eaten by animals




Mathew 18:10-14

What is the flock's attitude when a lost sheep is returned?

- Do they play red rover and block the stray sheep?
 - They let the sheep back into safety

Not only does the shepherd come after the lost sheep, the flock lets the sheep come back.

- Do the sheep begrudge the shepherd because he went after the lost sheep?
 - No the sheep have an understanding that they are safe in the flock
 - Safe “in the body”



Matthew 18:21&22

- Matthew 18:21 & 22
 - Forgive seventy time seven.
 - Basically continually forgive
 - Luke 18: 6 – 8 provides one example that God promises justice
 - We need to let God make the decision on what justice will be
 - Remind crime drama justice

Matthew 18:15-20

- Matthew 18: 15 – 20
 - Nestled in the context of those passage is the section titled “if your brother sins against you”
 - I propose that this passage lays out a method to exercise not only if a Christian is sinning but if you are offended or hurt by somebody in the body.

Are you ready for the patented 3 step process on maintaining unity in the body of Christ?



Matthew 18:15

Step 1

Matthew 18 :15

- Go by yourself
- Submit the information you want to share.
 - “I need to let you know that what you did really hurt me”
- Don't confront.
- Be ready to receive clarity for a misunderstanding



Matthew 18:16

Step 2

Matthew 18:16

- Gather two other Christians
 - The first time they should hear what you have to say is when you are in front of the person at issue.
 - Don't recruit
 - Be ready for the two others to correct you.



Matthew 18

Step 3

Matthew 18:17

- Bring the matter to church leadership
 - The first time church leadership should hear about this is when you are in front of the person at issue.
 - Be ready to receive personal correction.



Matthew 18:18-20

- Conclusion - Matthew 18:18-20
 - When we consider the context, we can see that the goal of dealing with sin or offense is not to try and get justice.
 - Instead, it is to keep the fold intact. ... to maintain unity in the body of Christ.

Acts 2:1

- Acts 2:1 shows that “in unity” is where God wants us to be.
- If a person continues in wrong doing, after reviewing the steps above, then they will act like a rotten apple and spoil the basket from within.
- Must be unity following the mind of Christ –
Tower of

Supernatural VS Physical

These guidelines work when dealing with what occurs in the physical world...

....not the supernatural.

Don't act on feelings that somebody creeps you out

Or if you feel witchcraft around another person.