

Family Matters  
**Discipline in the Family, Part 2**

*Protecting Our Purity*

**Matthew 18:15-35**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 3, 2019*

**I. Spiritual Life Starts When You See Your Great Need for Depending On Someone Other than Yourself**

**II. Spiritual Growth Continues When You See Your Ongoing Need to Be Fighting Sin**

**A. It Starts with a Commitment to Getting Radical about Your Own Sin**

**B. It Continues with a Commitment to Loving One Another Enough to Speak to Each Other about Sin**

- 1. You are your brother's keeper**
- 2. Choose to love first then go if necessary**
- 3. Make sure it's a sin you're going to talk about**
- 4. Don't wait for them to come to you**
- 5. Talk to the person first before anyone else**

The issue of helping each other fight sin is so important and Scripture shapes how we should do this. See **Galatians 6:1**.

**6. Go with gentleness and humility**

Lead out with questions instead of accusations. Assume the best about that person and give them a chance to explain, because that's what love looks like.

**I Corinthians 13:5** "... is not easily provoked, thinks no evil."

Humility reminds you of how much you have in common with others. Pride always accentuates the differences, causes you to exaggerate the sins of someone else, and minimize the same sins in your own life, making you harsh.

**Matthew 18:10** says if you keep going down that path you will despise them and when you talk to them it will not go well.

**7. Go to persuade not to condemn**

The Greek word for 'tell him his fault' is a word that Paul often used in reference to evangelism because you're not going to tell them off, but to persuade them or win them over, for the glory of God.

**8. Don't give up easily**

**Matthew 18:16** "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'"

The others that you take with you are more than just witnesses, they're also talking and trying to persuade this person to be reconciled. See **v. 17**.

### **III. Spiritual Growth Can Stall without the Love of a Church Family that Refuses to Ignore Unrepentant Sin**

**Matthew 18:17** “And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”

#### **A. What Issues or Sins are We Talking About?**

Some situations that could lead to this next step of church discipline:

- **Doctrinal heresy** (Gal. 1:6-8; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:17,18) – When someone in the church begins to debate or depart from a fundamental doctrine (i.e. deity of Christ or justification by faith)
- **Divisiveness** (2 Thess. 3:11; Titus 3:10, 11; Rom. 16:17-20). The Bible says that a person who creates division and strife in the church is to be warned twice and then removed.
- **Undisciplined living** [2 Thess. 3:6, 11, 14; 1 Thess. 5:14). This is characterized by a believer whose life is dramatically out of step with God's truths for righteous living. At Thessalonica, this was manifested by idleness, gossiping, and consuming the church's resources.
- **Conflict between believers** (1 Cor. 6:5; Phil. 4:2,3; Matt. 18:15-18). When two believers refuse to settle a dispute privately and the matter spills over into the church, the leaders must take action.
- **Sins of the flesh** (1 Cor, 5:11). Paul lists immorality, reviling (abusive speech), and being a drunkard or a swindler as disciplinary offenses. This is not a complete list of external sins of the flesh, but it illustrates the kinds of sins that bring shame and weakness to Christ's body.

#### **B. What does the Next Step of ‘Tell it to the Church’ Look Like?**

In our church the situation is taken to the elders so they can prayerfully think through what should be done next to help this person repent.

#### **C. What Does It Mean to Treat Someone as a Heathen or Tax Collector?**

Treating someone as a heathen or tax collector means that you remove them from church membership because while everyone is welcome to attend our church we don't let anyone become a member or join our church unless they're already joined to Jesus Christ as a believer.

#### **D. How Should We Treat Someone When It Reaches the Final Step?**

Jesus loved heathens and tax collectors even though He knew they were spiritually clueless. Treat them the same way you would an unbeliever because that is how they are acting as they refuse to repent.

#### **E. Why Would I Want to Be a Part of a Church Like This?**

You need to officially join a local church so other Christians and spiritual leaders have permission and authority to hold you accountable to live according to God's Word. Look at **Hebrews 3:12-13**.

#### **IV. Our Church Family Will Never Do This Well Unless We're Filled with the Compassion of Jesus and Convinced that He's with Us in the Process**

##### **A. Jesus Promised to Be with Us as We Pursue Purity in the Family of God**

**Matthew 18:18-20** <sup>18</sup>“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

##### **B. Jesus Calls Us to Be Compassionate Because of Our Own Sin Debt That's Been Cancelled**

**Matthew 18:27** “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.”

Mercy and forgiveness should characterize the family of God, as well as submission to the Word of God and all that He's called us to do in love for each other as we pursue purity together in our fight against sin.