

Week 4: Relationships among church members (Part 2)

Part 1: We continue our study of Matthew 18 to examine the reproof of a member who has left the church because of his sin. What does the Lord Jesus command us in Matthew 18:15 about a brother in Christ who has sinned against us?

In review, with what attitude do we reprove him of his sin according to Proverbs 15:18; Matthew 7:3-5; Galatians 6:1; James 1:19-20; and 1 Peter 4:8?

If he repents, what do we do according to Matthew 18:13, 15?

If he does not repent, what must we do according to Matthew 18:16?

Notice that the one or two who go with you serve as counselors to help resolve the situation. If the offending brother repents, what happens in Matthew 18:13, 15?

If no resolution is reached, the counselors serve as witnesses in the next step. What is this step according to the first part of Matthew 18:17?

Now the whole church serves as a counselor to encourage the member to repentance. According to the verses studied above, what is the attitude of the whole church in speaking to this member about his sin?

If the member does not receive the reproof of the church and does not repent, what happens next according to the second part of Matthew 18:17?

Notice that considering him an unbeliever or tax collector does not mean his rejection but the recognition that he does not know Jesus Christ. Therefore, what does the church do with this person according to Matthew 9:11-13?

Part 2: Let's see a Biblical example of the process described in Matthew 18:15-17. In 1 Corinthians 5:1, what sin were some of the church members in Corinth committing?

According to 1 Corinthians 5:2, how had the church reacted to their sin up to this point, and how should it have reacted?

With what power does Paul judge this case in 1 Corinthians 5:3-4?

What does Paul decide about this case in 1 Corinthians 5:5, and for what purpose?

Why does Paul reprove the church in 1 Corinthians 5:6?

What does he command the church in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, and why?

What does Paul command the church in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 to protect it from this kind of sin in the future?

In 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, what distinction must the church recognize in its relationship with outsiders and with those who are members?

The story doesn't finish yet. In 2 Corinthians 2:4, what was Paul's attitude in writing the first letter to the Corinthians and about the member in sexual sin?

According to 2 Corinthians 2:5, who had this member impacted in his sin?

Apparently this church member repented. According to 2 Corinthians 2:6-8, what was the means of his repentance, and how should the church react now?

According to 2 Corinthians 2:9, what was another reason that Paul wrote his judgment of this brother?

And in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, how does Paul react to this entire situation, and who receives the glory in the reproof and restoration of this brother?

In summary, what do we hope to see in a church whose members reprove one another in obedience to the Lord's word in Matthew 18:15-17 and the other verses we've studied?