

## ***Seeking Reconciliation in the Church*** **Matthew 18:15-20**

### Main Point:

When sin causes a breach in your relationships with one another, preserve the peace and unity of Christ's Church by seeking reconciliation per His instructions.

1. You will be sinned against by your brethren at times.
2. When the sin causes a breach in your relationship, Jesus has given you instructions to follow in order to be reconciled.
3. Step 1: Go to your brother alone and tell him his fault.
4. Step 2: If going to your brother alone does not work, then go to him again bringing one or two others with you.
5. Step 3: If bringing one or two others with you does not work, then go to the elders of the church.
6. Preserve the peace and unity of Christ's Church by seeking reconciliation per His instructions.

**1 Peter 4:8** <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." (NKJV)

**Jay Adams** "Any offense that doesn't get between us and the one who committed it – does not need to be raised. But anything that creates an unreconciled state between us and another must be brought up and dealt with. That is to say, any matter which is carried over to another day, any matter which makes you feel different toward that person for more than a passing moment, any matter that throws love's covers off must be brought up."

**John Legg** "The aim is not to show that you are right or justify yourself, but to win him back ... The aim is to bring him back through repentance to forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration."

**Galatians 6:1** <sup>1</sup> Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness ... (NKJV)

**Matthew 18:21-22** <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (NKJV)

**Jay Adams** "At each stage what moves the process ahead a step is the refusal of the offender to be reconciled."

**R. C. Sproul** "The idea is that by going to the one who has sinned against you with one or two others, he will be moved by the wisdom of multiple counselors."

**Matthew Henry** "While ministers ... in their government of the church strictly adhere to his laws ... they may be assured that he will own them, and stand by them, and will ratify what they say and do, so that it shall be taken as said and done by himself."

**1 Corinthians 5:5** <sup>5</sup> Deliver such a one to Satan [that is, excommunicate him] for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (NKJV)

**Proverbs 15:32** <sup>32</sup> He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. (NKJV)

**John 17:20-21** <sup>20</sup> "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> "that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. (NKJV)