

We Need Each Other

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1. God's people live in community 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
 - a. He made a special promise about meeting with us when we get together
 - b. We are to always be thinking about each other
Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 - i. The Bible is full of one another
 - ii. We get together and encourage each other
 - iii. We motivate each other to live for Jesus, to make our lives
 - iv. We challenge each other, our families, everything to be more and do more for the cause of Jesus
 - v. We love each other Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
 - c. The very word church has the idea of together, congregation, assembly
 - d. Sweet fellowship like the psalmist said Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!
 - e. God wants us to get along with each other
I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
 - f. We are to work at being friends Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - g. Loving other Christians and enjoying being with them is a sign that you are truly born again I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
 - h. Sin separates us from our family
 - i. Sin isolates us
 - ii. Sin hates light
 - iii. Sin poisons the entire person
 - iv. Sin confessed brings us back into fellowship
 1. We admit our sin
 2. We humble ourselves

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3. Our family bears our sin with us
2. Jesus gives them instructions about what to do when there is conflict among them 15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.
 - a. People who spend lots of time together will eventually have some issues
 - b. Sin and conflict are not to be welcomed in the church
 - c. The goal is to restore your brother 15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.
 - i. Since we are brothers and sisters and we love each other we never want to punish our brother
 - ii. The goal is never to kick someone out of the church
 - iii. Our goal is to see our brother serving Jesus with all of his heart
 - iv. Our goal is to not throw them away but to take them on to maturity in Christ
 - d. The discipline should start in private and personal 15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.
 - i. The more people you involve in the discussion the more you will embarrass them
 - ii. You will harden instead of help if you are not careful
 - iii. You must speak humbly to your brother in Christ
 - iv. We want to fix things between us
 - v. We do not want to live in bitterness and unforgiveness
 - e. It doesn't say go tell the pastor but for you to go to them and see if you can help them, first
 - f. You are not there to reprimand but to help him see his error and get it right
 - g. If the person will not listen to one then 2 or 3 go to help reason with the sinner
 - h. If the sinner will not listen to several witnesses then the church will try to help him see the error of his ways
 - i. If the sinner refuses then he is to be left alone to his own ways
3. A Biblical example of church discipline I Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a

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fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

- a. The man was fornicating with his dad's wife
 - b. They were to turn him over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh
 - c. His spirit would be saved in the day of the Lord
 - d. They are told not to company with or have fellowship with Christian brothers that are fornicators, covetous, idolaters, yelling fighters, drunkards, or extortionists
 - e. There are some interesting truths in II Corinthians 2:6 that seem to be about this brother 6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. 7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. 8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. 10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; 11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.
 - f. We are not to judge the world
 - g. We are to walk in holinesses together
 - h. We are to be challenging each other to a closer walk with Jesus
 - i. We know that sin left alone can tempt others to do the same
4. Things to remember about church discipline
- a. Don't believe gossip or accusations
 - i. You shouldn't believe accusations against spiritual leaders I Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.
 - ii. You shouldn't believe accusations against anyone without 2 or 3 witnesses Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.
 - iii. No one can be accused with just one witness Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.
 - b. Don't spread the gossip Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the Lord. 17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. 18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord.
 - c. Remember that there can be false witnesses Deuteronomy 19:18 And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; 19 Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.
 - d. Always investigate to be sure that the person is really guilty
 - e. We should never be vindictive

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- f. We want growth not to get rid of the person
 - g. We will always think of how we would want to be treated Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
 - h. God's people do make mistakes, do fall into sin
Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.
 - i. We never get excited because someone falls into sin, not even our enemy Proverbs 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:
 - j. Always remember that you can fall also
I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.
5. Jesus gave the church the authority to discipline its members 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
- a. As we obey Him in disciplining Biblically then He will authorize it
 - b. Here He gives instructions on discipline but with a promise
 - c. He will honor what we do because we are doing what He wants us to do
 - d. This two that are agreeing seem to be the same guys mentioned above in the discipline story
 - e. He is in the midst of us
 - f. We are not making Heaven do something but instead allowing Heaven to tell us how to handle problems
 - g. This passage is about how we deal with sin and wrong and still forgive
 - i. The first lesson is humility. We are to forget ourselves as we serve Jesus and other people 1-4
 - ii. We are responsible for how we live and teach others to live. We are not to be stumbling blocks 5-7
 - iii. We are to deny ourselves and that means cutting out of our lives things that would keep us from being obedient to the Lord 8-10
 - iv. We are to realize that God loves the individual and never want to think in terms of the crowd 11-14
 - v. We are to practice church discipline. Loving and forgiving doesn't mean anything goes just that we will lovingly and kindly bring people to do right 15-20
 - vi. We work at being together and in fellowship and never try to go it alone 19-20
 - vii. We live in an atmosphere and spirit of forgiveness because we have been forgiven 23-35
 - h. So the promise to bind in heaven seems to deal with the sin and wrong and not with getting God to do something
 - i. We need each other so we will
 - i. Live in humility
 - ii. We will get sin out of the body as quickly as we can
 - iii. We will treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ
 - iv. We will deal with sin instead of holding grudges, being bitter, and judgmental
 - v. We are forgiven so we will forgive

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Vision Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church pastored by Austin Gardner. We are located in Alpharetta, GA, in the southern end of Forsyth County.

We are a missions-minded church with a goal of fully honoring God and helping families draw closer to Him.

You will feel welcome and loved, and you will receive a wonderful blessing from God's Word when you visit Vision Baptist Church.

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