

Your Responsibility to Fellow Believers in Sin

Matthew 18:15-17

Introduction

- List responsibilities you don't enjoy but are glad when completed
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- Jesus gives every believer the responsibility to confront a fellow-believer who is in sin – *If your brother sins*
 1. *Your brother* – refers to a person who c_____ to be a believer in Christ (includes the hypocrite and the nominal Christian)
 2. *Sins*
 - a. Later copies of Matthew add *against you*. But Gal 6:1 does not limit the confrontation to the one who has been sinned against.
 - b. Sin does not refer to man-m_____ rules but to those wrongs identified by the b_____.
 3. The steps are outlined below

Step #1 – P_____ confrontation (15)

- The first step for most people is to t_____ someone else about the sin. But this is g_____.
- The purpose of this first step is to g_____ the person back (i.e. to get the person to listen and repent)
- This can be done face to face or by t_____ - if they repent, the process is done. Otherwise, go to the next step.

Step #2 – Private confrontation w_____ by one or two (16)

- The purpose of this step
 1. A second effort to g_____ the person back.
 2. That the witnesses confirm every f_____ (i.e. – identify the sin, confrontation was done lovingly, etc.)
- If the person repents, the process is done. Otherwise, go to the next step.

Step #3 – Getting the entire c_____ to confront (17a)

- Notice that Jesus DOES NOT say bring the offender before the church but bring the o_____ to the attention of the church.

- The church is the local church made up of b_____ in Christ. So every believer attempts to encourage the person in sin to repent.
 1. Some do this by letter
 2. Some do this by phone call
- If the person repents, the process is done. Otherwise go to the next step.

Step #4 – Disassociate with the un_____ person (17b)

Let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector

- Gentile – a person not of the J_____ race.
 1. Gentiles practiced w_____ other gods.
 2. In our context this would be equivalent to an un_____
- Tax collector – a person of the Jewish race who collected taxes from the Jewish people for the R_____ government.
 1. Tax collectors over_____ their own people and pocketed the money and so were considered outside God’s kingdom.
 2. In our context this would be equivalent to an un_____
- Practically speaking
 1. The person is to be removed from m_____
 2. The person is to be not a_____ with (1 Cor 5:11)
 3. This weeds out the hypocrites and nominal Christians and gives the believer the greatest m_____ to repent.

Conclusion:

- Consequences for not following these steps
 1. When a sin is overlooked, then that sin will tend to s_____ throughout the church body (1Cor 5:6)
 2. The church’s w_____ is compromised.
- No one should e_____ confronting but when done properly:
 1. The normal outcome will be r_____ eventually if the person is a true believer.
 2. All will be glad when complete, including the one in sin – a s_____ person has been restored to the fellowship of God and His church!