

How to Deal with an Offending Brother

Matthew 18

How to Deal with an Offending Brother

- Offenses are serious

Matthew 18:6–7 (NKJV)

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. **7** Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

How to Deal with an Offending Brother

- Offenses are serious
- We should take great pains to prevent sin from disrupting fellowship between us and God

Matthew 18:8-9(NKJV)

“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. **9** And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

How to Deal with an Offending Brother

- Offenses are serious
- We should take great pains to prevent sin from disrupting fellowship between us and God
- God takes great pains to restore fellowship between Himself and us

Matthew 18:10–14 (NKJV)

“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. **11** For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. **12** “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? **13** And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. **14** Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

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- Offenses are serious
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- God takes great pains to restore fellowship between Himself and us
- We should take great pains to prevent sin from disrupting fellowship among ourselves

Matthew 18:15–20 (NKJV)

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. **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.’ **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. **18** “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.... **20** For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Mistakes in Applying Matthew 18:15-18

- Starting with the last step

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- Starting with the last step
- Trying to ignore sin and offense

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- Trying to ignore sin and offense
- Waiting for the offender to make the first move

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- Getting others involved too soon

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- Trying to ignore sin and offense
- Waiting for the offender to make the first move
- Getting others involved too soon
- Not getting others involved

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- Trying to ignore sin and offense
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- Getting others involved too soon
- Not getting others involved
- Not getting the church involved

Mistakes in Applying Matthew 18:15-18

- Starting with the last step
- Trying to ignore sin and offense
- Waiting for the offender to make the first move
- Getting others involved too soon
- Not getting others involved
- Not getting the church involved
- Not recognizing Jesus' purpose in this command

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- This requires us to be willing to forgive our brother

Matthew 18:21–22 (NKJV)

Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”
22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

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- If we don't forgive our brother, God will not forgive us

Matthew 18:23–35 (NKJV)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24** And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ... **32** Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. **33** Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ **34** And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. **35** “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

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Jesus Purpose: Victory over Sin and Death

- Suffered and died to pay the debt we could never pay
- Rose from the dead
- Is now seeking and saving lost sheep
- Providing forgiveness
- Restoring fellowship between us and God, in spite of sin
- Bringing the spiritually dead back to life
- Enabling them to forgive others
- Restoring fellowship between us, in spite of sin
- Bringing human relationships back to life from the dead