

Pursuing Holiness

15 " If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." Matt 18:15-20

1. God DISCIPLINES sin. (Act. 5:1-11; I Cor. 11:28-30)
2. The Lord REQUIRES the church to discipline sin in its midst. (Rev. 19:7)
3. Jesus gives a four-step process to promote HOLINESS in the church.
 - a. Go PRIVATELY to another Christian who is sinning. (vs. 15)
 - b. Take several others along as CONFIRMATION. (vs. 16)
 - c. Share the situation with the CHURCH. (vs. 17a)
 - d. REMOVE the UNREPENTANT sinner from the church. (vs 17b)
4. The goal is RESTORATION, not REMOVAL.
5. Church discipline is simply following what God has ALREADY DECREED. (vs. 18-19)
6. Confronting rebellious sin carries all the AUTHORITY of Christ Himself. (vs. 20)
7. Do not take communion if you are not right with GOD, or other BELIEVERS.