

## “IF YOUR BROTHER SINS AGAINST YOU”

### Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus taught us to how deal with sin between brethren. We must heed Him.

#### I. “YOUR BROTHER”

The Scripture under consideration (15) has to do with repairing relations among brethren in Christ, fellow members of the body, not outsiders.

##### A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4-6

Christians and non-Christians are not the same, nor should they be treated equally.

##### B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:9-13

Outsiders are not subject to the discipline of the church, so disputes should be resolved differently

#### II. “SINS”

The primary text does not address any random behavior that happens to irritate, but only **sin** (15).

##### A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4; 5:17

Sin is breaking the law of the Lord, behaving in a way contrary to His righteousness.

##### B. James 4:17

The guilt of sin also exists in failing or refusing to do that which God requires.

#### III. “AGAINST YOU”

The sin discussed in this passage is a personal one, not a public one (15). To try and force this corrective procedure onto sins of a public nature is incorrect.

##### A. Galatians 2:11-14

Public sin gets addressed publicly.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:19-20**

Elders who sin and whose sin is confirmed by multiple witnesses need to be rebuked publicly.

**IV. “TELL HIM HIS FAULT”**

Wrongdoers deserve to be informed of their errors (15).

**A. Luke 17:3-4**

Christ commands His disciples to rebuke. We would be disobedient to neglect this straightforward instruction.

**B. Revelation 3:19**

Rebuke is not the opposite of love, but the manifestation of it.

**V. “BETWEEN YOU AND HIM ALONE”**

This is a one-on-one occasion (15). No one else should be present, and no one else should even be aware the conversation is even happening.

**A. Proverbs 26:20-22**

Talking to others about how one person did you wrong is, itself, wrong.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:1-8**

If courts should be avoided on the principle that outsiders are unqualified to judge the church, then, outsiders should be altogether unaware of any strife between members.

**VI. “YOU HAVE GAINED YOUR BROTHER”**

The goal is not proving yourself right and someone else wrong, but **gaining** him (15)!

**A. Galatians 6:1**

Spiritual people humbly restore trespassers.

**B. James 5:19-20**

We join Christ in the work of salvation when we turn back the wanderer.

## VII. "TWO OR THREE"

If initial rebuke is sadly unfruitful, then efforts must escalate to include the presence of witnesses (16, 20).

### A. **Deuteronomy 19:15**

Since the Old Covenant, God has enjoined His people to rely on witnesses for verification of what is said.

### B. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:4-5**

The well-known words about Jesus being present where two or three are gathered were offered by the Lord in the very specific context of church discipline relying on witness corroboration. To remove the context is to establish a pretext, so let's handle this text with care. The point is that when members function together to carry out works of discipline, the Lord is present and gives His consent. It does take a gathering together for the church to effect discipline and when that occurs, the power of the Lord Jesus is involved.

## VIII. "LET HIM BE TO YOU LIKE A HEATHEN"

When a brother in the church sins and won't repent, withdrawal is required.

### A. **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15**

Disorderly conduct must have consequences.

### B. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:11**

Social interaction is forbidden.

## CONCLUSION

### A. **Acts 3:19**

Where there is sin, repentance is the solution.

### B. **Acts 8:22; 2:38**

Whether it's repentance and prayer or repentance and baptism depends on whether you're a wayward Christian or an alien sinner.