

Review: What is the four-stage process for reconciliation when someone has wronged you?

- 1) Talk to the other person _____
- 2) Take _____ of the offense with you
- 3) Take it to _____
- 4) Regard him/her as _____

Matthew 18:15-18 (NIV)

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ 'I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

What do you think Jesus means when he says to treat such a person as you would a pagan or a tax collector?

What does Jesus mean when talks about "binding" and "loosing"?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NIV)

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. ² And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? ³ Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵ hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

⁶ *Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?*

⁷ *Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.*

⁹ I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

Closer Look:

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NIV)

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.

What is the nature of the man's sin?

² And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? ³ Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.

Why might the church have been proud of such a situation?

⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵ hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature[flesh] may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

What does it mean to "hand someone over to Satan"?

What is the ultimate goal of handing the man over to Satan?

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What is the comparison to the Passover Feast?

Paul is concerned about the man's sin, but what is his greater concern?

Have you seen situations where you could see sin sweeping through a community of people?

What would happen if the church continued to turn a blind eye to this sin?

How damaging would it be to the representation of the church if they allowed evil to run through it unchecked?

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How should we relate to a person who claims to be a Christ-follower, but defiantly chooses to continue sinning?

If we are not to dissociate with non-believers, why should we dissociate from a believer acting like a non-believer?

Underline all times in this entire passage does Paul say they are to put the man outside the community of faith?

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How are we to reconcile the above passage with Matthew 7:1-5?

Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (NIV)

If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Why do we find it hard to apply this teaching?

Romans 16:17-18 (NIV)

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

**Has anyone seen this practice of church discipline applied in a church?
How was it applied and how did it conclude?**

The following passage may or may not refer back to the man in 1 Corinthians 5, but it does reveal how the church is to respond to the believer who repents of his sin.

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (NIV)

If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent--not to put it too severely. ⁶ The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. ⁷ Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰ If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

If the person eventually repents, how are we as a church to respond?

What are Satan's schemes?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

How do you think the church community would be affected if we had to exercise discipline within the church?

Church Discipline is always a last resort after every other step has been pursued to bring the person into a healthy walk with Jesus Christ.

Personal Reflection:

Is there some area in my life where I am giving into Satan's schemes?

Are there areas where I need to try and resolve tensions with others?

Am I willing to confront sin from a "love" perspective?