

# PORTRAIT OF THE *King*

ADVERSARIES

# **“The Patient Process for a Church’s Purity”**

**MATTHEW 18:15-20**



- Some believe we are not to judge others.

## **Reasons Churches Won't Practice Church Discipline**



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- Some want to avoid losing church members.

**Reasons Churches Won't  
Practice Church Discipline**



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- Some don't want to shame or embarrass the sinner.

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- Some hate confrontation.

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Practice Church Discipline**



- Some believe we are not to judge others.
- Some want to avoid losing church members.
- Some don't want to shame or embarrass the sinner.
- Some want job security.
- Some hate confrontation.
- Some have an unbalanced view of God.

**Reasons Churches Won't  
Practice Church Discipline**





“...to be against discipline, is near to being against the ministry; and to be against the ministry is near to being absolutely against the church; and to be against the church, is near to being absolutely against Christ.”

**Richard Baxter,**  
*The Reformed Pastor*



**KEY POINT:**

**Faithful Christians offer and accept correction.**



I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)

A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



# I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)

## A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).

### 1. Who needs confrontation? (vs. 15a)

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



## Toolbox for Skillful Shepherding

Member Condition	Spiritual Danger	Proper Response	Scriptural Support
Living Fruitfully	Failing to Continue	Encourage; Praise	1 Thess 4:1; Phil 2:29
Lacking Information	Doctrinal Ignorance	Teach; Instruct	1 Cor 12:1; 1 Thess 4:13; Acts 18:26
Needing to Get Moving	Laziness; Neglect	Exhort; Spur On; Urge	Heb 5:11–12; 6:12; 10:24; 2 Cor 9:4–5
Suffering Trial	Discouragement	Comfort; Console	2 Cor 1:4; 7:6
Starting to Go Astray	New Sin Pattern	Warn; Correct; Admonish	Titus 3:10; 1 Cor 4:14; Luke 9:54–55; Matt 16:23
Determined to Wander	Habitual Sin	Rebuke	Rev 3:18–19; Titus 1:12–13; Gal 2:11
Stubborn Unrepentance	Apostasy	Excommunicate	Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 5:5

“Christians who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, generally speaking, cannot abide for long in known sin. They eventually become so uncomfortable—courtesy of the Spirit—that they eventually do the right thing.

Formal church discipline or excommunication is warranted when an individual seems to happily abide in known sin.”

**Jonathan Leeman,**  
*Church Discipline*



# I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)

## A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).

1. Who needs confrontation? (vs. 15a)
2. Who needs to initiate the confrontation?  
(vs. 15b)

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



- Show grace and speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
- Have pure motives (Romans 12:17-21).
- Be a good listener (Proverbs 18:13).
- Choose a wise time and place.
- Plan what you will say.

**Principles to Keep in Mind  
When Going**





- So, the sin can be explained.
- So, the sinner can acknowledge his sin before it becomes public.

**We Go Privately...**



“Churches as well as individual Christians are tempted to say of a sinning brother, in effect if not in words, ‘We have no business getting involved. It’s his life, his decision, and his responsibility. He’s accountable to God, and what he is and does is only between him and the Lord.’ That attitude may sound loving and spiritual on the surface, but it does not square with...

**John MacArthur, commentary  
on Matthew 18-23**



“...Scripture. It reflects ungodly indifference, not loving concern for the brother who has fallen.”

**John MacArthur, commentary  
on Matthew 18-23**



# I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)

## A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).

1. Who needs confrontation? (vs. 15a)
2. Who needs to initiate the confrontation?  
(vs. 15b)
3. Why do we confront? (vs. 15c)

**Outline of Matthew 18:15-20**



“Our attitude should not be that of a policeman out to arrest a criminal, but rather that of a physician seeking to heal a wound in the body of Christ, a wound that will spread sickness and death if left alone.”

**Warren Wiersbe,**  
*Expository Outlines*



*“<sup>19</sup> My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”*

**James 5:19-20**



I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)

A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: Multiple Witnesses (vs. 16)

1. What pattern are we looking for? (vs. 16a)

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



- Does he know it is a sin?
- Is he grieved over their sin or annoyed he has to confess?
- Was he forthcoming about sin or did we have to dig to find it?
- Is he defensive?

**Questions to Ask in Stage 2**





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1. What pattern are we looking for? (vs. 16a)

2. Who should accompany this stage? (vs. 16b)

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)

A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: Multiple Witnesses (vs. 16)

1. What pattern are we looking for? (vs. 16a)
2. Who should accompany this stage? (vs. 16b)
3. Why multiple witnesses? (vs 16c)

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



*“<sup>15</sup> A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. <sup>16</sup> If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, <sup>17</sup> then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the...*

**Deuteronomy 19:15-20**



*“...priests and the judges who are in office in those days. <sup>18</sup> The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, <sup>19</sup> then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. <sup>20</sup> And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you.”*

**Deuteronomy 19:15-20**



- To prove the validity of what was said by both parties (Deuteronomy 19:15-20)
- To confirm the sinner was properly rebuked
- To show them the concern of their sin with other members of the church
- To turn up the pressure
- To serve well the logistics of Stage 3, if necessary

**Why Multiple Witnesses?**



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  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: Multiple Witnesses (vs. 16)
  - C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Telling It to the Church (vs. 17a)

1. What pattern are we looking for?

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



- I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).
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1. What pattern are we looking for?
2. Why is the church informed?

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



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  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: Multiple Witnesses (vs. 16)
  - C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Telling It to the Church (vs. 17a)
    - 1. What pattern are we looking for?
    - 2. Why is the church informed?
    - 3. What is the church's responsibility?

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20





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  - C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Telling It to the Church (vs. 17a)
  - D. 4<sup>th</sup> Stage: Removing the Unrepentant from the Church (vs 17b)
    - 1. What pattern are we looking for?

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



- I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).
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    - 1. What pattern are we looking for?
    - 2. What happens now?

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



- I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: One-On-One (vs. 15).
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  - D. 4<sup>th</sup> Stage: Removing the Unrepentant from the Church (vs 17b)
    - 1. What pattern are we looking for?
    - 2. What happens now?
    - 3. Does confrontation continue?

**Outline of Matthew 18:15-20**



- I. The Church's Confrontation (vs. 15-17)
- II. The Lord's Commendation (vs. 18-20)

Outline of Matthew 18:15-20



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