

INSIDE IDEAS

The Self-Cleansing Kingdom of Jesus

MATTHEW 18:15-20

TEXTUAL OBSERVATIONS

Jesus wants the church to deal with its sin and interpersonal conflicts from the inside out.
Jesus is addressing the offenders, the offended and those in the middle.
Jesus sees reconciliation as the goal, never punishment.

4 Divine Steps for Cleansing from the Inside Out

STEP 1: Talk to them alone rather than talking about them to others. (v. 15)

"[you] go"

"tell him his fault"

WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE because _____ demonstrates affection.

STEP 2: Take a few witnesses with you. (v. 16)

"take one or two others along"

"every charge may be established"

"EVERYONE SAYS _____ IS A LOVELY IDEA until they have something to forgive." C. S. Lewis

STEP 3: Bring the matter to the church leadership. (v. 17a)

"if he refuses to listen"

"tell it to the church"

THE _____ MUST BE A SAFE PLACE for sinners but cannot be a safe place to sin.

STEP 4: Do the hard thing and remove them from the fellowship. (v. 17b)

"if he refuses to listen even to the church"

"to you as a Gentile and tax collector"

DISCIPLINE SEEMS UNPLEASANT in the moment but later yields the peaceful _____ of righteousness. (Heb 12:11)

JESUS IN THE MIDST OF RECONCILIATION, HE PROMISES ...
GIVES US THE • Heaven's power and divine authority (vv. 18-19)
AUTHORITY • His personal presence and support (v. 20)
TO SELF-CLEAN

... bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:13



Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

FOR THIS WEEK

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 18:15

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."

JOURNAL:

Matthew 18:15-20

FORGIVENESS IS A DECISION INVOLVING 4 THINGS

1. I will not dwell on this incident.
2. I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.
3. I will not talk to others about it.
4. I will not let the incident stand between us and hinder our personal relationship.

ADVICE FOR RESTORING THE RELATIONSHIP

1. Express your love before you express your problem. Proverbs 10:12 says *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.*
2. Avoid asking inflammatory questions. Don't ask why they did this to you, as it can be accusatory.
3. Keep the focus on yourself by using I statements like "I am concerned" and "I feel hurt."
4. Be factual and simple. Proverbs 10:19 says *When words are many, transgression is not lacking.*
5. Be clear about the response you're seeking: "I want you to apologize for slandering me," "Help me understand what happened here," etc.
6. Never go without spiritual preparation, prayer and fasting.

DR. TED KITCHENS

1. Why is it best to resolve conflicts in private? When should we air our grievances in public? And how can gossip cause conflicts to escalate?
2. Read Matthew 18:15-20, and Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15. From where does Jesus get His instructions in Matthew 18:16? Why is this significant? (Note that they are repeated by other New Testament writers in 2 Corinthians 13:1, 1 Timothy 5:19 and Hebrews 10:28.)
3. How can Christians be certain they have the authority to exercise church discipline when necessary?
4. See the chart below. Why is it so difficult for Christians to take that first step of personal confrontation? Have you ever avoided that step yourself in a difficult situation? What did you do instead, and how did it turn out?
5. What person came to mind during the sermon that you need to approach for forgiveness? What seemingly impossible situation do you need to begin praying about for the Lord to bring to a resolution?

JOURNAL Matthew 18:15-20

What new insight did you gain from this sermon that you need to act on?

WOMEN IN THE WORD We all want to walk with Jesus in the right way. Yet how do we live out this desire when we are broken, prone to mess up, tempted to choose wrongly or perhaps even unaware of our mistakes? We need wisdom. We need skills in living. The book of James offers us practical and relevant ways to live faithfully in specific situations, and we would love for you to join us as we discover them together. Living Wisdom, Women in the Word's new series, begins Thursday, Sept. 8. Learn more by visiting ccbcfamily.org/women.

BAND OF BROTHERS The book of Genesis is more than stories; it's a history of God's sovereign plan to offer redemption to all of us. How did this cosmic story of salvation begin? Discover the answer with us in Band of Brothers this fall as we jump into a new series, In the Beginning, starting Thursday, Sept. 8. Learn more about times and locations by visiting ccbcfamily.org/men.

DISASTER RELIEF Here at Christ Chapel, we want to continually walk out the offer of hope and healing in practical ways to those experiencing hardship and suffering. Our Disaster Relief Ministry does just that, and they are hosting an informational meeting on Sunday, Aug. 14, at 11 a.m. in the North Link Classroom. Discover more about this ministry and their upcoming meeting by visiting ccbcfamily.org/evens.



ELDER AND DEACON CANDIDATES

This Sunday, and for the next three Sundays, you can scan this QR code to see our full list of Elder and Deacon nominations. This list has been

unanimously approved by our Board of Elders, and there you'll also find the constitutional requirements for these leadership positions. If you are a constitutional member of Christ Chapel, you'll receive a voting link at the end of the month to cast your vote. This link will be sent out prior to our annual meeting held on Sunday, Aug. 28 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

GET UPDATES AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOUR WEEK. Throughout the week we like to post updates, events and encouragement on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. They're online communities we love and we think you will, too! Search @christchapelbiblechurch to find us and follow along.

KEEP US CLOSE WITH THE CHRIST CHAPEL APP. On the app you'll find today's sermon notes, an easy way to give, past messages, opportunities to connect, a quick way to send in prayer requests and more. Download it from the App Store or Google Play.



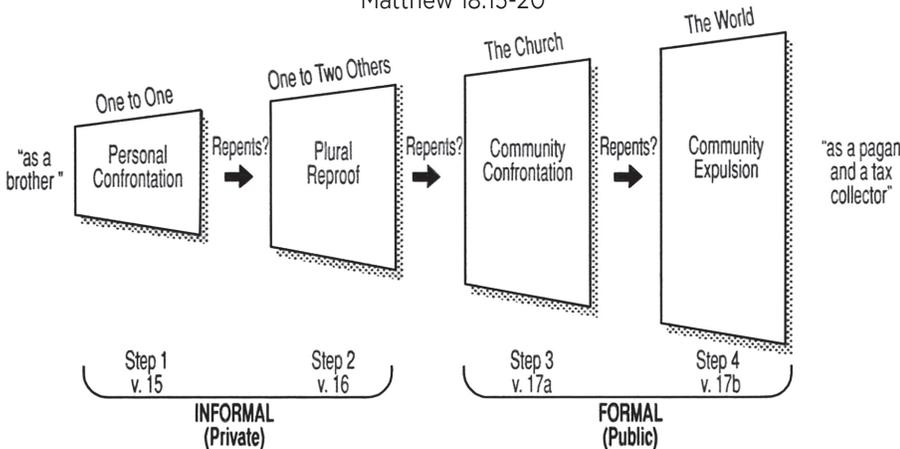
LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?

Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCFW to 833-422-7200 to get started.

A Summary of the Procedure for Corrective Church Discipline

Matthew 18:15-20



From *Aftershock: What to Do When Leaders (And Others) Fail You* by Ted Kitchens, Multnomah, 1992