

Restoring the Wanderer

Matthew 18:15-20

“In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:14
What should Christ’s people do?

Matthew 18:15-17

Includes: Remove the privileges of fellowship

This has application for personal offenses

Go directly, just the 2 of you

If it isn’t resolved and it merits attention, get others to help

“Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so that you will not share in his guilt.” Leviticus 19:17

“Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.” Proverbs 12:16

But the focus here is: a fellow disciple **who is in spiritual danger through sin**

Hebrews 3:12-14

James 5:19-20

Galatians 6:1

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

Proverbs 27:6

Our core value:

Superabounding Grace and Complete Obedience to Christ

“We are committed to building a community that practices superabounding grace while calling our people to complete obedience to Christ.”

Matthew 18:18-20

The Church is to be aligned with God

God is at work through the Church

The Main Point

Christ’s people must live out

God’s deep value to rescue straying disciples including confrontation

Application

Care personally for those who are straying

God leaves the 99 secure sheep on the hillside to rescue the stray

Whom do we know who is wandering?

Radiance: The whole church caring for the whole church



Protect honor

Talk directly to the person

Expand the “team” only for loving action

Use all the godly tools we have available

Care and kindness

Confrontation: “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” Proverbs 27:6

Even shame

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How were you raised to handle disagreement and conflict? Some of us are from families and cultures where disagreement and conflict were very direct and public. Some of us are from families and cultures where disagreement and conflict were indirect and hidden. How would you describe your background? What was good or problematic about it?
2. What have you known about “church discipline”? How have you seen it practiced? What was good about the practice? Was there anything that seemed problematic about it?
3. What is your reaction to God’s commitment not to lose wanderers?
4. How does this commitment relate to how Jesus dealt with Judas Iscariot (the one who betrayed Him) and Peter (the one who denied knowing Him)? What might that teach us?
5. What might it look like for us to join God’s commitment not to let people stray from Christ?
6. **Is there anyone God is prompting you to reach out to?**

Conversation starters with people in daily life, whether or not they are Christians

There is an expression in English: “You made your bed, now sleep in it.” We let people make their own choices, and we then expect them to live with the consequences of those choices.

Yet it is a beautiful thing **when people deeply care for each other, helping them when they are in trouble and wandering** into more trouble. Where do you see that happening? What motivates that work?