

A Brother Who Sins Against You - Matthew 18:15-20

Topics: Accusation, Authority, Church, Compassion, Consequences, Correction, Disagreements, Friendship, Humility, Instructions, Judging Others, Mercy, Pain, Prayer, Quarrels, Reconciliation, Stubbornness, Unity

Open It

- * 1. What are some typical approaches people adopt in conflicts or disagreements?
- 2. What is the greatest “miracle answer to prayer” you’ve ever experienced?
- 3. What societal forces work to divide families, friendships, and churches?
- 4. What is it like to be in the middle of a church split?

Explore It

- 5. What situation was Jesus addressing in this context? (18:15)
- * 6. What did Jesus set forth as the first step in resolving conflict? (18:15)
- 7. What positive consequences can result from resolving conflict? (18:15)
- * 8. What should we do if a person will not listen to correction and does not want to work things out? (18:16)
- 9. What Old Testament principle is in view here? (18:16)
- 10. What did Jesus say to do if a person doing wrong won’t listen to correction? (18:17)
- * 11. What extreme measures should be used if a wrongdoer turns a deaf ear to all pleas to reconcile? (18:17)
- 12. How can Christians and/or churches be certain they have authority to exercise discipline? (18:18)
- 13. What assurance did Jesus give His disciples about answered prayer? (18:19)
- 14. What special promise did Jesus make to groups that gather in His name? (18:20)

Get It

- * 15. Why is it best to resolve conflicts in private?
- 16. What attitudes can eliminate or help reduce friction in disagreements?
- 17. How can a third party help resolve a conflict?
- * 18. When should we air our grievances in public?
- 19. How can gossip cause our conflicts to escalate?
- 20. How can your church play a role in difficult or very serious quarrels?
- 21. If Christ is with us always (Matthew 28:20), in what unique way is He with us when we gather in His name?
- 22. Why is praying in a group a good idea?

Apply It

- 23. What biblical principles can you practice today so as to avoid conflicts with others?
- * 24. To what relationships or in what specific ways do you need to apply today’s passage?
- 25. What seemingly hopeless situation will you begin praying for today?